



Guiyang Consensus 2013

**adopted at the Eco Forum Global (EFG) Annual Conference
Guiyang 2013, “Building Eco-Civilization: Green Transformation
and Transition – Green Industry, Green City and Green
Consumption Lead Sustainable Development”**

19 – 21 July 2013, Guiyang

PREAMBLE

The Eco Forum Global (EFG) Annual Conference Guiyang 2013 was held on 19-21 July 2013 in Guiyang, Guizhou Province, China.

Xi Jinping, General Secretary of CPC Central Committee and President of the People's Republic of China, sent a message of greetings in which he offered profound insights into the concept behind China's key state policy objective to make a rapid transition to an "Eco-civilization", its meaning, and the implications for China and the world of this transition. President Xi Jinping noted that China's leadership in this area reinforces the image of China as a responsible country within the international community; this is bound to have a significant and far-reaching impact upon promoting the concept and realization of eco-civilization in all countries and regions of the world. President Xi extended full and formal recognition to the Eco Forum Global and articulated high expectations for it. This greatly encouraged the participants and demonstrated that the recommendations of the Eco Forum Global are awaited and respected at the highest levels of government in China.

Zhang Gaoli, Member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of CPC Central Committee and Vice Premier of the State Council, attended the annual conference and delivered a speech offering his views on promoting international cooperation in the transition to eco-civilization and emphasizing the importance of joint efforts to secure an eco-friendly home on earth for all of its inhabitants. The President of the Swiss Confederation Ueli Maurer, the Prime Minister of Dominica the Honourable Roosevelt Skerrit, the Prime Minister of Tonga Lord Tu'iavakano, the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan, the former Prime Minister of Italy and former President of the European Union—Romano Prodi, and former CPPCC Vice President—Xu Kuangdi delivered keynote speeches. The Australian Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, sent a message of greetings. All praised China's eco-civilization approach, and encouraged China to further develop policies and measures to promote green development and to speed the transition to eco-civilization. They welcomed the strengthening of international dialogue and communication on this topic, urged that effective measures be taken to cope with climate change and that sustainable development be promoted in all countries of the globe. Dedicated to the theme "Building Eco-

Civilization: Green Transformation and Transition – Green Industry, Green City and Green Consumption Lead Sustainable Development”, this year’s forum attracted more than 4,000 Chinese and foreign participants, including former State Councilor Dai Bingguo, heads and senior representatives of UN organizations and related international organizations, representatives from Chinese ministries and state commissions, civil society leaders, eminent experts, scholars and university presidents, mayors, well-known entrepreneurs, and press and media leaders. They contributed to 35 panels and related activities, such as the eco-technology exhibition. They engaged in forward-looking, cutting-edge and practical discussions on key economic trends and industries, such as new energy, green architecture, the circular economy, green finance, eco-tourism, eco-agriculture as well as water and forest conservation, PM 2.5, food safety, housing, and traditional Chinese and Western thinking on ecology. They also focused on complementing the demonstrated entrepreneurial track record of women in various industries, including information and communication technology, by dedicated capacity-building and training for eco-civilization.

The participants share the belief that it is the common challenge of humanity to protect the environment, to confront climate change and to preserve security of energy supply. Nowadays, global warming increasingly threatens the survival and development hopes of humanity. Our demand on natural resources, biodiversity and ecological services has moved beyond the self-healing capacity of the earth. A balance among economic development, social progress, and environmental protection must be achieved by adopting more socially and environmentally-friendly modes of production and consumption that move beyond traditional modes of industrialization that rely on polluting first and cleaning up later. The international community and individual nations must make a rapid transition to new “win-win” approaches to development that respect the environment and that allow people to enjoy a safe, prosperous and healthy life on a planet kept healthy for future generations.

The participants agreed that the concept of eco-civilization addresses a variety of aspects of the environment, climate, energy and water nexus relevant to sustainable

development—which has been adopted as the over-riding goal of humanity by the international community. Faced with energy and resource crises, climate change and environmental damage, no country or district can stand by without being affected. No country, whether poor or rich, big or small, Eastern or Western, should follow past trends and patterns of industrialization, adopted without regard for their detrimental impact on ecological well-being. Instead, all should participate in speeding the transition to eco-civilization on the basis of their ability and following the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Indeed, it was recommended that the concept of eco-civilization be incorporated in the post-2015 Development Agenda currently being elaborated by the United Nations. Communication and cooperation in the construction of an eco-civilization should be deepened so as to confront climate change and promote sustainable development, and so as to bring benefits to people in all regions of the world and for future generations.

Participants reached agreement on this common goal and on actions needed in the future, including rethinking and reassessing current policies, regulations and systems to ensure an effective implementation of the green transition.

Four sets of policies and measures should be prioritized.

First, in order to accelerate green development and green industrial transformation:

- Industrial development should be led by and contribute to the notion of eco-civilization. It should draw on the most advanced technology and the most scientific way actively to explore the means of combining economic development, resource and energy conservation and environmental protection in a complementary manner.
- More efforts should be deployed to develop eco-industries like new and renewable energies, energy efficiency and conservation measures. The use and consumption of energy-saving products should be encouraged to foster new economic growth possibilities and to introduce reduction, reutilization and recycling during the process of production, consumption and disposal, so as to bring about a circular economy.

Second, to promote social harmony and inclusive development:

- As the public becomes more sensitive to the urgent need to protect the environment and as the perception of environmental risk intensifies, more high-quality eco-products should be developed and marketed. At the same time, the public should be provided with material and cultural products to advance and share a healthy environment and to promote social harmony.
- The development rights, responsibilities, opportunities and interests of all citizens and nations should be respected. Problems such as food safety, energy security, climate change, and natural disasters should be tackled through joint efforts. Equal opportunities and rights for men and women, transparent and universally-respected regulations and equitable allocation of public resources should be achieved for the sake of people's full development and the pursuit of win-win situations in every country and the harmonious co-existence among different cultures and between human beings and nature.

Third, to take the strictest measures for the repair of damaged ecosystems and depleted natural resources:

- Major ecological restoration projects should be carried out. In order to preserve biological diversity, priority must be given to the comprehensive treatment of desertification, land degradation, to water and soil conservation and to the expansion of areas dedicated to forests, lakes and wetlands. Particularly urgent efforts must be made in the area of air quality through measures such as effective protection and expansion of forest cover, curbing motor vehicle pollution, upgrading the technology of polluting enterprises and developing clean energies. Protection of drinking water must receive top priority. Comprehensive treatment of entire river basins and lakes must be undertaken, the collection and treatment of polluted water must be expanded, while restoration of degraded ecosystems can restore the function of wetlands in ecological purification so as to provide the public with cleaner drinking water.

- Strong institutions should be created and given the legal power to promote and enforce the wise consumption of resources, to respond to environment challenges and to generate ecological benefits for sustainable economic and social development, which can serve as a reliable input to the construction of an eco-civilization.
- Each country should undertake a thorough examination of the policy incentives that guide people's consumer choices and their economic behaviour, phasing out those that undermine eco-civilization and replacing them with incentives that reward responsible consumption and sound environmental and social behaviour.

Fourth, to popularize ecological values:

- Profound efforts are needed to promote both formal and informal education for ecological culture and ethics in order to guide everyone to respect nature and to adapt individual behavior and consumption so that values in support of eco-civilization are promoted, and ecological awareness and responsibility strengthened across society from an early age.
- More efforts must be made to promote green consumption values and knowledge of green products in order to guide the public to change from pursuing luxury and extravagant lifestyles to an embrace of a simpler yet more rewarding life.

Participants were impressed that Guizhou, the host province of the forum,

has chosen the concept of eco-civilization to guide its economic and social development and is determined to become the eco-civilization pioneer in China. It has already achieved a first stage on the road to eco-civilization through a determined effort simultaneously to promote both economic development and environmental protection. EFG included an event entitled: "Switzerland and Guizhou Dialogue: Is Switzerland Only a Fairy Tale in Europe? - The Development Future of Guizhou as a Landlocked Region" which involved Chinese and Swiss leaders and entrepreneurs to advance practical cooperation. Guizhou is similar to Switzerland in terms of geographic and natural conditions, thus intensified communication and cooperation with respect to eco-civilization

construction and the challenges of mountain economies can help advance mutual development. Guizhou is committed to learn from the Swiss experience and make efforts to build the “Switzerland of the East”.

Participants agreed that the Eco Forum Global gathered wisdom from all fields of Chinese society while benefitting from the experience of international participants. EFG plays an active and unique role in promoting global eco-civilization and in hosting exchanges aimed at accelerating the green transition. The hope was expressed that the Forum can reach a higher level, extend its influence and systematically build a long-term platform, which continues to expand its outreach and research orientation, and emphasizes the urgent need to share experience and achievements, and to promote practical cooperation and networking, so as to fully contribute to the protection of the global environment on the path to a new age of eco-civilization.

Of particular urgency is the challenge of putting in place an enabling framework of institutions, policies, regulations and incentives that rewards behaviour compatible with eco-civilization and discourages behaviour that depletes natural, social or economic capital. The achievement of eco-civilization is an essential condition for the future of humanity and no effort can be spared to ensure that we move towards that goal at a strong and resolute pace.