

Consultation meetings WDR 2010 Beijing

When: November, 2008

Where: Beijing

Participants: Ministry of Finance, National Development and Reform Commission, Energy Research Institute, China Energy Management Company Development Steering Committee, Tsinghua University, Renmin University of China, Chinese Academy of Social Science, China Huaneng Group, GreenGen Co. Ltd .

Summary: Conducted consultations and collected information/data/case studies with a wide range of stakeholders of government agencies, academic think-tanks, and enterprises. As requested by the Ministry of Finance, a short summary of the WDR concept note and questionnaire for feedback was translated into Chinese.

Comments:

- Most people suggested the WDR follow a vision and opportunity theme rather than adopt a doom and gloom tone. Development co-benefits justify pursuing domestic clean energy policies, and climate change provides an opportunity to further push this agenda. In China, even without consideration of climate change, energy efficiency and clean energy are driven by concerns over energy security, resource constraints, transport of coal, coal mining safety, local air pollution, etc. In addition, new low-carbon technologies and technology transfer also provide opportunities for developing countries.
- Developing countries cannot follow the traditional development models of developed countries, and have to find a new development model of low carbon economy and a balanced lifestyle.
- However, decoupling emissions from growth in China today is quite challenging at the development stage where growth is driven by heavy industry and rapid urbanization. Developed countries economies are partly built on manufacturing industries from developing countries. A large portion of China's domestic energy-intensive industries are set up to meet export needs. Therefore, it would be more difficult to decouple emissions from growth at this development stage compared to the period 1980-2000, when the service industry dominated the economy and Chinese GDP quadrupled while energy consumption only doubled.
- Many advocated that the WDR should give nuclear energy a prominent role.
- Others stated that once developed countries demonstrate their leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, developing countries will follow.
- NDRC official recommended that the WDR should emphasize the right to develop, and opposed separating developing countries into middle-income and low-income countries.