



中国-东盟环境保护合作中心
China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center

Newsletter

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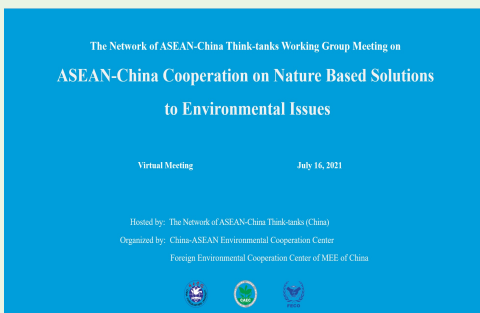
August 23th, 2021

The Network of ASEAN-China Think-tanks Working Group Meeting on ASEAN-China Cooperation on Nature-based Solutions to Environmental Issues Successfully Held

On July 16, 2021, as one of the series activities of the 30th Anniversary of China-ASEAN Dialogue Relations, the Network of ASEAN-China Think-tanks Working Group Meeting on ASEAN-China Cooperation on Nature-based Solutions to Environmental Issues was successfully held as a virtual meeting. The Meeting was co-hosted by Network of ASEAN-China Think-tanks and China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center/Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, MEE. Delegates from MEE and affiliated organizations, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, departments on environment and foreign affairs of ASEAN member countries, and relevant organizations attended the discussion.

Zhou Jun, Director of Department of International Cooperation of MEE, addressed the opening ceremony. He highlighted that in the past 30 years since ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations was established, both sides have actively carried out dialogue and cooperation, and achieved fruitful outcomes especially in ecological and environmental cooperation. He hopes that in the future both sides could continue deepening ecological and environmental cooperation, and strengthening the exploration of Nature-based Solutions, to address ecological, environmental and social issues among other challenges in a sustainable way, and jointly facilitate the improvement of regional environmental quality and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Li Xia, Division Chief of China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center (CAEC), highlighted that China and ASEAN Member States faced a lot of common challenges in climate change, biodiversity conservation, and marine environmental protection. Nature-based Solutions provide an effective pathway that is more sustainable and more economical. China hopes to enhance exchange and sharing of good practices with ASEAN countries, and jointly explore effective solutions for China and ASEAN regional environmental issues.



All sides shared and exchanged good practices and experience of Nature-based Solutions in climate change adaptation and mitigation, ecological environment improvement, and the building of eco-friendly cities.

Chen Gang, Assistant Director and Senior Research Fellow of the East Asian Institute (EAI), National University of Singapore, highlighted that the geographical location and climate conditions of Southeast Asia make this region vulnerable to climate change influence. Some of ASEAN Member States need to pay equal attention to meeting the needs of green and low carbon development while addressing domestic development needs. This is a great challenge that ASEAN is confronted with while realizing carbon-neutrality.

Tanapon Phenrat, Professor from Naresuan University, Thailand highlighted that Nature-based Solutions are very effective for remediating ecological environment. To ensure its successful implementation, it requires the collaboration of source pollution treatment and process monitoring. Besides, it needs in-depth and detailed feasibility study and fundamental research.

Vo Thi Minh Le, Director of Institute of World Economics and Politics, Vietnam highlighted that extreme weather caused by climate change exposed Vietnam's Mekong Delta to severe ecosystem destruction and socio-economic problems. In recent years, the government has successfully alleviated the influence of climate change on this region and improved urban climate resilience by adopting Nature-based Solutions, including improving agricultural production, developing sustainable infrastructure, and enhancing the involvement of stakeholders.

Wang Yujuan, Senior Specialist of CAEC highlighted that the mangrove ecosystem is one of Nature-based Solutions. China and ASEAN Member States are rich in mangrove resources. Both sides should continue to pay high attention to the conservation of mangroves, and jointly facilitate the implementation of relevant tasks in the *Framework of ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Strategy and Action Plan (2021-2025)*.

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China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center is committed to implementing China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Strategy and promoting China-ASEAN exchange and cooperation in the field of environment. It is an important platform of foreign environmental cooperation.