



## “Trade, Urbanization and the Environment” October 28-30, 2009 Beijing, P.R. China

### CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

Considering the major place of China on the international scene, the pace of its development and the importance of its urban growth, it seems relevant to propose a conference in Beijing, Capital city to address the above mentioned topics. The presence of political decision makers and recognized academic institutions in the city creates a favourable context for such a project.

The Veolia Environment Institute (France) and the Center for Human and Economic Development Studies of Peking University (China) aim at organizing a high quality international event that will bring together Chinese and international experts to give the overview and major facts and trends on the following global challenges. This event has also the support of the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME), the School of Economics, Peking University, the Foreign Economic Research Institute, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the China Society for WTO Studies, Ministry of Commerce (MoC), and the Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy, Ministry for Environmental Protection (MEP).

This Conference will be a platform for in-depth intellectual exchange between senior academia members, decision-makers and practitioners in the field of trade, urbanization, environmental protection, and sustainable development. We wish that the conference will provide useful outcomes for policy makers and help improve the public consciousness.

#### ► *Subject*

We are living in an era of rapid economic globalization, combined with a growing urbanized population and a tense situation on the global environment. The complexity of development issues comes from the numerous implications at stake. Achieving sustainable development is a major challenge which implies to create wealth and reduce poverty, to fight against inequality and to protect environmental resources at the same time. Trade and urbanization are parts of this process and they can no longer be studied separately from their respective impacts on the environment.

Fast growth of trade and foreign direct investment are fuelling the economic growth of participating economies; they also provide huge economic opportunities for the poor, as well as enabling advances in many other areas of human development. Trade's impact on the environment is double-edged though, which in turn has different impacts on human development. Along with the threatened global environment, and an increased awareness of the need to protect it, today environmental considerations and regulations have a strong influence on both the direction and the level of international trade.

As a potential consequence, this rapid economic development has been accompanied with a fast-paced urbanization, caused by the concentration of economic opportunities in urban areas and the population's yearning for improved standards of living. Therefore, at the city level, local governments have to deal with the flows of environmental resources, food, people, wastes, capital, etc. coming in and out of the city. They also have to provide this ever growing population with adapted infrastructure, basic services, distribution channels and transport systems, which have all an environmental counterpart.

In this context, the conference will discuss both trade and urbanization with regard to their environmental impacts, globally and locally, with a particular focus on China's and emerging countries' experiences. In other words, the central question of the conference is: “how could one disconnect the pressure put on the environment from economic and human development?”

In order to focus on the inter-linkages between trade, urbanization, the environment and human development and to encourage better communication and exchange of ideas, the suggested main themes of the conference are as follows:

- Inter-linkages between trade, the environment and human development
- Environmental regulations and multilateral trade negotiations
- Comparisons of “trade and environment” related policies in several emerging and developed countries
- Equity implications of “trade and environment” related policies
- Challenges to China’s trade, the environment and sustainable human development
- Urbanization trends: perspectives for mega cities, development of small and medium size cities, urbanization process (with a particular focus on China, where hundreds of new cities could be built in the near future)
- Managing the city under the carbon constraint: challenges and opportunities (limiting emissions, promoting the energy efficiency, the future of eco-cities)
- Controlling pollution (air, soil, water) - regulations, policies and technical solutions
- Circular economy
- Well being in the city : poverty reduction and health protection
- The provision of basic services

► **Objectives**

The forum’s main objectives are to:

- (1) Provide a platform for far-reaching dialogue between the government, scientific experts, manufacturers, operators multi-lateral agencies, and civil society organizations;
- (2) Share international experiences in reconciling the need for environmental protection, clean trade, as well as for environmental friendly management of cities;
- (3) Raise concern and awareness for “trade-urbanization-environment” issues among all levels of Chinese society;
- (4) Promote quality research in China and internationally related to “Trade, Urbanization and the Environment”, thereby providing firmer factual bases for dialogue between interested parties that are seeking consensus;
- (5) Contribute, ultimately, to the formulation of “trade-environment” and “urbanization-environment” related strategies, policies and programs, so as to assist government policy-making and decision-making in China and other related countries.

► **Outputs**

The desired outcomes of the forum include:

- Increasing the scope for long-term exchange between government (national and local, China and other related countries), international organizations, decision makers, business sector and other interested parties on respective views and government policies.
- Consolidating and enabling continued exchange and cooperation between academics, politicians, civil society representatives, operators and other concerned parties on the issues of trade, urbanization, the environment, and human development.
- A collection of high-quality commissioned background papers, prepared by experts from organizers and other authoritative academic and policy research institutions, to be published by a top publishing house in China and internationally.
- A collection of high-quality conference papers, with a view to contributing to long-term policy studies and debates on trade, urbanization and environment issues and policies in China and internationally.

► **Audience**

“Trade, Urbanization and the Environment” is a global subject in which both public and private sectors are involved. The organizing partners are willing to enrich the conference debates with scientific, political and solution-oriented contributions and analyses. They wish to attract an audience composed of decision makers, researchers, academia, business and NGOs on the basis of 400 persons. Participants will mainly come from China but the participation of people from other regions or countries will enrich the debates with international experiences.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION – ORGANIZING PARTNERS

INSTITUT

*Veolia Environnement*

### ► VEOLIA ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE

► Created in September 2001, the Veolia Environment Institute's main goal is to contribute to a fuller understanding of the transformations occurring in the field of the environment. Its actions aim at detecting implications of those environmental changes on public policy, private initiatives and society in general. The Institute relies on its Foresight Committee to guide its reflections thanks to the diversity of expertise of its 7 eminent members: Helene Ahrweiler, Harvey Fineberg, Pierre Marc Johnson, Philippe Kourilsky, Rajendra K. Pachauri, Mamphela Ramphele and Amartya Sen.

The *Veolia Environment Institute* promotes foresight reflection on subjects related to the environment in partnership with universities or research organizations in order to shed light on the important issues for the upcoming decades. These investigative efforts aim to contribute to public debate on an international scale.

Its work relies on three kinds of activities: a research program, led in partnership with academic experts; a publication program based on two new publications: S.A.P.I.EN.S, a multidisciplinary scientific journal, and FACTS Reports dedicated to field actions. As a third initiative, it develops an international conference program.

► The Institute has a program for a series of Future Environmental Trends Conferences internationally. Jointly organized with academic partners, these events seek to create a forum for discussion and to raise awareness on the major themes defined by the Institute among university circles, institutional organisations and civil society.

Date and place	Partners	Theme
June 2004 - Paris, France	Institut Pasteur, France	Health, Environment and Education
January 2006 - Toulouse, France	Institut D'Economie Industrielle (IDEI, France)	Public services and Management: designs, issues and implications for local governance
December 2006 - Bangalore, India	The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI India) Institut du Développement Durable et des Relations Internationales (IDDRI, France)	Energy, environment and development: analyzing opportunities for reducing poverty
October 2007 - Montreal, Canada	Pew Center on Global Climate Change (USA) National Round Table on the Economy and the Environment (NRTEE, Canada)	Climate 2050: technology and policy solutions

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### ► CENTER FOR HUMAN AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STUDIES PEKING UNIVERSITY



► The Center for Human and Economic Development Studies (CHEDS), Peking University (China) is a non-profit research institution based at the School of Economics, PKU. It is the first such academic institution established specifically to undertake systematic and in-depth interdisciplinary research on human development in China. The development of CHEDS has gained strong support and help from leaders of PKU and from society at large. CHEDS intends to do its best to contribute to the cause of human development, to become a flagship institution for human development research and practice, and to serve as a communication platform for knowledge and ideas about advancing human development in China. CHEDS is currently engaged in five key areas: research, networking, training, pilot experimental projects and policy consultation. Its work is inspired by the support from some of the leading figures in the world of Economics and Human Development, many of whom are on its Academic Committee: Amartya Sen, Sudhir Anand, Yan Guo, Shi Li, Wei Liu, Mai Lu and Wing Woo, among others. As well as having its own team of in-house researchers, many of the Center's associate members are prominent academics, and we have established extensive links with similar centers worldwide.

► The Human Development Forum is the largest and most important academic and political communication platform that CHEDS has launched. Its twin aims are to broadly disseminate human development ideas in China and to raise discussion on human development issues with policy makers, in academic circles and among the public. The first forum, which was held at Peking University in October 2006, brought together internationally renowned scholars, high-ranking policy makers, and researchers from universities, research institutes and civil organizations. The conference was jointly organized by Peking University, the Chinese Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO). The Center for Human and Economic Development Studies (CHEDS) of Peking University, the Expert Committee on Health Policy and Management of Chinese MOH, and the WHO Beijing Office acted as the conference's executive organizers.

Further information on the website: [www.cheds.pku.edu.cn/en/](http://www.cheds.pku.edu.cn/en/)