WORK REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON POLLUTION CONTROL

1. INTRODUCTION

In September 1996, the 5th Meeting of CCICED affirmed the work of the 1st Phase of the Pollution Control Working Group. The meeting suggested the establishment of the urban water and water resource control plan, and urban energy environmental comprehensive planning. It also suggested that trans-regional cooperation would benefit the revolutions of trans-regional water & air pollution control, and national controlling scheme on climate change should be improved. At the same time, it suggested that in the 2nd phase the working group should pay more attention to the policy and project demonstration.

Under the direction of Prof. Qu and Dr. Schneider, the pollution control working group selected several new group members. The 2nd phase working group consists now of senior technical and policy specialists. After preparing the 5-year plan, work started at the first meeting of the working group in August 1997.

2. THE PLAN OF THE WORKING GROUP

2.1 Energy and Environmental Planning in typical cities

While China was making "The Ninth Five-Year Plan of National Economy and Social Development, and the Summary of the Planning for the Year 2010", at the same time most cities were undertaking energy and environmental planning. But the weakness in this planning was how to realize energy and environmental co-ordination. So it is necessary to select the typical cities and carry out the studies on energy and environmental coordination with the typical cities and carry out the studies on energy and environmental coordination with the utilisation of the planning model, environmental quality planning procedures, different economy developing rates and different energy supply and environmental cost scenarios. Additionally, these studies will be carried out for the policy and project demonstration in the field.

2.2 Water Pollution Control Planning in the Guangdong catchment of Zhujiang River

Based on the work of the 1st Phase group, further study of the Zhujing River is to examine water pollution control in the economically developed areas. After the control of the Huaihe River, the Liaohe River and the Haihe River, the main contents of the study are the survey of water environment of the Zhujiang River, studies on the overall control of water pollutants and engineering control schemes, and studies on the decision support system and a water environment monitoring system.

2.3 Mitigating CO2 emission and its Demonstration in China

China is a signatory to the Climate Change Framework Convention. Although the convention does not have mandatory control requirements for the developing countries, China should carry out the studies on the mitigation of CO2 emissions according to the need of its own economic mode and sustainable development.

2.4 China's Trans-province Acid Deposition Issues and Regional Control Scheme
Along with the rapid economic development and increased energy consumption in China, especially coal consumption, pollution caused by sulfur dioxide and acid deposition has a trend of increasing. According to the regulations contained in China's Law on Air Pollution Control, revised in 1995, the control zones for acid deposition and sulfur dioxide pollution are currently being designated for the whole country. Comprehensive control of acid rain and SO2 pollution will be carried out in those designated zones. Research on trans-provincial transport of acid rain will be undertaken. Additionally, a regional control scheme should be developed which will help to control the increasing trends of pollution through more effective co-ordination within different administrative areas. The main content of the work is the development of a long distance transportation model for acid deposition, which energy consumption and current pollution status, to decide areas sensitive to acid deposition. Studies will be done on a regional basis, and policy and project demonstration to implement a comprehensive control scheme will be undertaken.

Those four projects were approved by the 1st Meeting of the 2nd Phase of CCICED in October 1997, It will take three to years for the working group to finish the studies on planning and schemes. In the final period of the 2nd Phase, the working group will carry out the policy and project demonstration tasks.

After the 1st Meeting of the 2nd Phase of CCICED, first studies were started. From November 1997 to February 1998, the working group held four workshops:

- Stationary Air Pollutant Monitoring Training Workshop
- The Prediction of China’s CO2 Emission Workshop
- The Workshop on Environmental Status and Pollution Control Strategies of Zibo City, and
- Risk Based Decision Making Workshop.

Most of these workshops are the extension of work of the 1st phase working group. For the projects of the 2nd phase, the studies on Water Pollution Control Planning for Zhujiang River and the studies on Shanghai Energy and Environmental Planning have been started. The proposals for studies on CO2 mitigation and the regional control for acid deposition still need adjusting.

During this period, the environmental management in China improved. In January 1998, the State Council of China approved the Acid Rain and SO2 Regional Control Scheme, established control targets and drafted relative regulations. In the control regions, the local governments, along with the relative coal and electricity departments, will coordinate comprehensive prevention and control planning. In March 1998, the government reorganized. While reducing the size of the government, the environmental management department in the State Council was strengthened. The National EPA was upgraded to State EPA in line with the Kyoto Meeting.

Thus the working group held the second meeting in April 1998. The meeting agreed on the following six issues:
1. Combine the "Shanghai Energy and Environmental Project" and "CO2 Mitigation Project" together, select the demonstration areas in Shanghai for this comprehensive project, and submit the proposal. The working group will hold a high level international workshop in Shanghai to work on it and seek international funding and technical support before the second meeting of CCICED this year.

2. Revise the proposal for China's Trans-province Acid Deposition Issues and Regional Control Scheme Project with the international specialists in order to seek international funding and technical support.

3. The training, catchment planning and water quality model, water pollution control technique in typical cities and counties needs international funding and technical support. Guangdong EPB will submit the proposal.

4. Select the typical cities for risk-based environmental decision making. USEPA and related institutes will submit the proposal.

5. Carry out a comprehensive survey of air pollution in Shanghai, focused on the source distribution of PM10. Based on the proposal of the Shanghai EPB, the international specialists of the working group will revise it in order to seek international funding and technical support.

6. Based on the studies of 1st phase working group for four cities, the Dutch experts will draft the guideline for Urban Environmental Status and Pollution Control Strategies. After the revision by the working group, the guideline will be spread through different media.

For those six issues, the working group will hold four workshops and a working group meeting before or after the CCICED meeting this year.

After a year's work, the working group has the following experiences:

1. While focused on the regional and international environmental issues, and the keystones of China's environmental protection, the relation of the studies of the working group and the governmental environmental policy have become clearer and received a wider alliance.

2. The projects are directed by the working group's national level experts, which strengthens international information exchange and cooperation, making the working group more active and efficient.

3. There is much work for the working group to do, including the extension work of the previous group. Therefore, focusing on the important studies, and promoting the quality and depth of the studies, are most important for the working group.

4. The projects, especially the policy and project demonstration, need more funding and technical support. The funding from Canada, Dutch and American governments makes it possible for the working group to invite international experts and to support the workshops. But the working group does not have enough funding to support detailed studies as well as policy and project demonstrations. The working group is trying to
change this situation. We hope to get more funding and technical support for the studies from the council, as well as from the national and international organizations.