



## Chapter 6 Education, Training and Public Awareness

The Chinese government attaches great importance to the education, training and public awareness on environment and climate change. In the Program of Action for Sustainable Development in China in the Early 21<sup>st</sup> Century formulated by the Chinese government in 2002, it was put forward: to develop education at all levels and in various ways and enhance public awareness of sustainable development, and to reinforce human resource development to build up the public's scientific and educational capacities to participate in sustainable development. In recent years, China has speeded up training and education on climate-related issues, devoted considerable efforts to raise public awareness on climate change to promote sustainable development, and obtained initial results.

### 6.1 Education and public awareness raising

In order to carry out the work of training and education on environment effectively, the relevant departments of the Chinese government have successively issued two important documents, Outline for Actions of National Training and Education on Environment and Outline for National Training and Educational Work on Environment 2001-2005, as concrete guidance for nationwide training and education work on environment. In 2003, the departments concerned of the Chinese government published A Guide to the Implementation of Environmental Education in Primary and Secondary Schools, to strengthen the education on sustainable development in primary and secondary schools. Through many years of efforts, China has now established an initial system of education, including regular and non-regular education, covering the fields of sustainable development, environment protection, climate change and so on.

#### 6.1.1 Regular education

Regular education in China includes elementary education and specialized education. Elementary education is targeted at students and children at and under middle-school level while specialized education covers students of vocational schools, professional high schools, colleges and universities.

China has already included environmental education in the Outline of All Subjects for Compulsory Education in Primary and Secondary Schools. In primary and secondary schools, two ways are adopted for environmental education in classes, i.e. subject permeation and specialized courses. According to statistics, teaching materials, books and coaching materials for environmental education in primary and secondary schools compiled by the departments in charge of environmental protection and education have come to over 50 versions with a publication of 2 million copies all over the country. Courses on environmental education have been set up in over 200 vocational schools and high professional schools in the whole country. The subject of environment protection has been set up in more than 200 institutes and universities for higher education, including over 200 undergraduate-degree offering units, 200 master-degree offering units and 77 doctoral-degrees offering units and post-doctoral posts. In addition, the State Environment Protection Administration and the Ministry of Education have jointly pioneered the initiative activity of "Green School".

China is considering integrating content of climate change into the regular educational system gradually, making education on climate change as a part of the education on capacity and ethics. For instance, in order to promote awareness on renewable energy, "Renewable Energy", the teaching material for popularizing the knowledge, has been put into use to help students in primary and high schools to foster the concept and knowledge of sustainable development. This set of teaching material will be trial used in high and primary schools in the provinces of Shaanxi and Jiangsu as well as Tianjin, Beijing and Shanghai municipalities.

#### 6.1.2 Non-regular education

China is also carrying out the education for adults on sustainable development, environmental protection and climate change by way of non-regular education.

In March 1996, "Sustainable Development" and "Revitalizing the Country through Science and Education" were adopted at the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the 8<sup>th</sup> National Peoples' Congress, as the two major medium- and long-term strategies to guide the national economy



and social development. Afterwards, all kinds of education and training activities for sustainable development and climate change have been vigorously carried out, hence raising the public awareness for sustainable development greatly.

China has obtained an outstanding achievement in environmental education and training. Lectures on environmental protection and report sessions on environmental situation have been held in colleges for administration and management at all levels, and the contents of sustainable development and environmental protection have been integrated into the training material. The training for officials in the environmental protection sector has been greatly strengthened, with training classes held annually for local directors in charge of environmental protection.

China has compiled teaching material and trained all kinds of stakeholders by conducting training courses on climate change, which has enhanced the awareness of the public and policy-makers on climate change. For instance, the Administrative Center for China's Agenda 21 held a Training Course on Climate Change with participation by officials from the planning departments of 23 provinces, municipalities, autonomous regions and cities. With support from the China-Canada Cooperation on Climate Change, the Training and Education Center of the State Environment Protection Administration has compiled training material on climate change, and conducted trainings for leading officials of local administration, directors of local environmental protection bureaus, presidents and teachers of Green Schools and business managers as well as journalists. The China Renmin University has, through the Sino-British Cooperation Project on Climate Change, compiled Training Material for Capacity Building for Provincial Decision-makers and conducted a series of training courses for provincial decision-makers.

## 6.2 Training and public awareness raising

The Chinese government attaches great importance to the work of training and education. Under the guidance of the national macro-policy, all the regions and institutions have taken the training and raising public awareness on sustainable development as an important part of their strategies or action plans for sustainable development. The whole society has witnessed increasingly active development in training on sustainable development, environmental protection and climate change with a higher public participation.

### 6.2.1 Survey on public awareness

Training on climate change can only be effective by understanding correctly the present status of public awareness on climate change. From this viewpoint, the departments concerned in China organized a nationwide survey with questionnaires to cover students in colleges and high schools, officials in governments, workers and farmers as well as community residents. The survey indicates that the Chinese public has, for the moment, just a little knowledge on the issue of climate change and limited understanding on the internal-relations between human-activities and climate change. They don't have a strong sense of climate protection in their daily life. The result of the survey has provided the Chinese government with basic information for carrying out training on climate change and increasing public awareness.

Table 6-1 Survey Results on sources of information related to climate change issues

Information sources	TV program	Newspaper	Internet	Special lecture	On-Road publicity	Fellows discussion	School education	Others
Proportion (%)	88.2	79.9	37.4	29.8	20.7	18.6	14.8	11.4

### 6.2.2 Media publicity

China has made full use of the media including TV, broadcasting and newspapers for the publicity of environmental protection and climate change. For instance, during the past two years, the Central Radio Station of China has successively transmitted more than 100 periodic programs entitled The Earth - Our Home, which were broadly welcomed by the public. China Environment News has done a lot in the training of environmental protection and climate change mitigation. China Youth Daily pioneered a special green column, publishing periodically articles on climate change. The influential medias, such as CCTV, have developed and distributed many TV programs on climate change, including interviews with experts, TV films and TV public advertisements so as to help the public to understand climate change and realize the close relation between climate change and their daily life. During



the Conferences of Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, all major medias in China made tracing reports on the relevant issues of the conferences and climate change.

### 6.2.3 Website construction & publicity

China attaches great importance to the role of Internet in publicity of climate change. On 11 October 2002, the first official website on climate change - China Climate Change Info-Net ([www.cccchina.gov.cn](http://www.cccchina.gov.cn)) was formally launched to the public with information covering: domestic and international actions and news, basic knowledge, laws and regulations, UNFCCC, reports and publications, greenhouse gas reduction technologies, National Communication, statistic data, international cooperation, etc. (Fig. 6.1). China Climate Change ([www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch)) focuses on introducing to the public with latest domestic and international information on research results and discoveries on climate change, relevant activities organized by the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, information about China's participation in the activities of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change and organized activities in China, knowledge on climate change impact and response policies as well as questions and answers to the hot-issues of the public and so on. The other relevant websites in China, such as China Energy (<http://www.china5e.com>), China Environment Online ([www.chinaeol.net/zjgh](http://www.chinaeol.net/zjgh)) and the Website on the Counter-measures to Global Climate Change (<http://www.ami.ac.cn/climatechanges2>) as well as China Global Environment Facility (<http://www.gefchina.org.cn>) have also played a very active role in introducing climate change information, popularizing basic knowledge on climate change, publicizing relevant policies and research results of the Chinese government on climate change and promoting international cooperation and information exchange. China has also used the Internet to conduct experts' lectures and organize the experts to exchange online with the public on the questions of climate change.

### 6.2.4 Public lectures and reports

China has also conducted various kinds of public lectures and reports on climate change. For instance, the State Council held a special lecture on Climate Change given by climate change experts in 2002 for high-ranking leaders, including the Premier and Vice-premiers. The departments concerned also invited the representatives from the government who attended the climate change negotiations, and the experts in the field of climate change, to deliver lectures on climate change. During the international symposium on climate change, two lectures on elementary knowledge of climate change and one online expert lecture were held for officials, community residents, school students and so on.



Figure 6.1 Homepage of China Climate Change Info-Net

### 6.2.5 Workshops and forums

Over the past 10 years, China has already conducted several conferences on climate change, hundreds of domestic and international workshops in connection with climate change and also organized many forums on climate change and environment. Of these activities, some were on a large scale and scope and at a high level, giving a great impetus on increasing the public awareness on climate change.

The Committee of Population, Resources and Environment of the National People's Political Consultative Conference (NPPCC) and China Meteorological Administration co-sponsored the Workshop on Climate Change and Ecological Environment in November 2003 (Fig. 6.2). The participants include officials from NPPCC, members of the Committee of Population, Natural Resources and Environment and other relevant committees of NPPCC, members of the Natural Resources and Environment Commission and other relevant commissions of the National People's Congress, members of National Coordination Committee on Climate Change and members of the provincial NPPCC, and experts, researchers as well as media journalists.



Hosted by the National Coordination Committee on Climate Change and sponsored by the National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Education, National Natural Science Foundation of China, Chinese Association of Science and Technology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China Meteorological Administration and World Meteorological Organization, the International Symposium on Climate Change was held successfully from March 31 to April 3, 2003 in Beijing. Hui Liangyu, Vice-premier of the State Council of China and Prof. Chasi, Secretary-general of the World Meteorological Organization presented and addressed at the symposium. A symposium with the subject of Climate Change — Science and Sustainable Development was organized with the participation of over 500 representatives from 46 countries and relevant international organizations (see Fig. 6.3). At this symposium, the latest research results in the field of climate change were exchanged and the research results of Chinese scientists were presented to international participants. This symposium gained active responses and extensive supports, and was highly appreciated by domestic and international participants and organizations. The 14<sup>th</sup> World Meteorological Conference of the World Meteorological Organization adopted a document expressing high appreciation of the achievements of this symposium. The proceedings of the symposium were published by the World Meteorological Organization as its official publication.

#### 6.2.6 Publications & other training material

In recent years, China has compiled and published many kinds of publications and training material on climate change. For instance, famous Chinese experts in the field of climate change composed and published an 18-volume serial publication titled Hot Topics on Global Climate Change, with topics on Economic Analysis of Climate Change Mitigation, Impact of Climate Change on Agroecology, Climate Change and Desertification and so on.

China has printed and distributed Newsletter on Climate Change, Research News and other publications. The brochure of China and Climate Change was compiled and distributed at the Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. China has also compiled and published the Booklet for Public Awareness on Global Climate Change (Fig. 6.4).

China has set up the Working Station for Receiving and Transferring Information on Climate Change, which helps gathering books, academic periodicals and relevant materials on climate change.



Figure 6.2 Workshop on Climate Change and Ecological Environment



Figure 6.3 International Symposium on Climate Change



Figure 6.4 Booklet for Public Awareness on Global Climate Change



### 6.2.7 Other activities

China has integrated training on climate change into all such important events as the World Environment Day, the Earth Day, the Ozone Day and the Tree Planting Day and carried out various forms of training activities on climate change to expand the influence and strengthen the training.

By using popular facilities (museums, halls of science and technology and galleries for popularizing sciences), China has carried out training and education on climate change.

By integrating the residence house, daily life and climate change to conduct a surviving education, training activities on climate change in communities were organised.

By using documentary films and publicity pictures, a precaution education has been carried out in the whole country so as to build up the environment awareness in the whole society and the whole nation.

With Saving Energy in Line with the Laws for Sustainable Development as the thematic topic, an activity of energy-saving training week has been conducted in China. By way of large-scale exhibition and demonstration of typical enterprises, a series of activities were conducted for promoting energy-saving products in communities, schools and government organizations so as to increase the energy saving awareness of urban residents.

Activities also include organizing college students to take part in advertisement design competition on climate change for public welfare purposes (Fig. 6.5), and supporting Friend of Nature, the non-government organization in environment protection, with exhibition of climate changes on the "Antelope Cars" — its mobile publicity vehicles, which carry out training and education on climate change in secondary and primary schools and townships and villages in mountainous and remote areas.

### 6.2.8 International cooperation

The Chinese government has always stressed the importance of carrying out training and education on climate change through international cooperation. For example, since 2001 with the support of the Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Development Programme, China started the project of Capacity Building for the Preparation of China's Initial National Communication, of which one of the specific topics is to strengthen public awareness on climate change and relevant activities. In 2002, China and Canada implemented the project "Capacity Construction for Climate Change in China", of which public awareness and training is one of the four sub-projects. In the Sino-British project on climate change, capability building and training of provincial decision-makers was chosen to be an important content. Under the support of the United Nations Development Programme, UN Foundation, Norway and Italy, the project "Capacity Building for Clean Development Mechanism in China" has also included a training component.



Figure 6.5 Works of advertisement design competition on climate change for public welfare

### 6.3 Outlook

China has made some useful attempts in both forms and contents of training, and has made initial achievements in the training, education and raising awareness on global climate change. However, the survey result concerning public awareness on climate change indicates that current awareness of the Chinese public has yet to be raised. This indicates that training and education in the field of climate change has to be further strengthened.



China will implement relevant requirements for education, training and public awareness raising of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change earnestly. It will make its continuous efforts for training and education on climate change, including the preparation of long-term strategies and short-term action plans for raising public awareness on climate change, enabling more and more people to know the basic scientific facts and impacts of climate change, and to understand mitigation and adaptation policies to climate change, so that climate protection will become a conscientious behavior of the whole society, and therefore the capacity to response to climate change will be strengthened and good coordination between economic, social development and environment will be achieved, which will certainly contribute to the mitigation of and adaptation to the global climate change. At the same time, China hopes to continue to receive support from the international community in the fields of education, training and raising public awareness on climate change.

Box 6-1 Consideration on Long-term strategies and short-term action plans of raising public awareness on climate change

Raising the public awareness on climate change has to be based on China's national conditions so as to set up the training and awareness raising objectives suitable for current development situation of China. Raising public awareness on climate change should be jointly implemented under the guidance of the government and through the support from all walks of life. The general goals for raising public awareness on climate change in China are: based on present situation of social-economic development in China and the concrete national conditions, through popularizing and disseminating relevant knowledge on climate change, to raise public awareness of the whole society on climate change; to strengthen China's capability in responding to global climate change, with the aim to make due contributions to the mitigation of global climate change and sustainable development.

The realization of this goal is long-term and a difficult task. It needs to be carried out gradually on targeted groups at different levels in different sectors. First of all, the awareness of decision-makers and administrators in climate change has to be raised so as to enable them to take into consideration of the impact of and counter-measures to climate change in decision-making processes. Secondly, the awareness of the educational and technical workers and scientific researchers need to be increased. Through the daily activities of these persons, study and education on climate change can be strengthened. Thirdly, it is necessary to raise the awareness of the business managers and staffs, making enterprises to become aware of the pressures in mitigating climate change and the underlining relationship between the counter-measures and the development of enterprises. The fourth is to raise the awareness of the people from all walks of life so that the climate protection actions will become the conscientious behavior of general public.