



## SESSION DESCRIPTION

# C3 Climate change adaptation and mitigation in Chinese cities

## Panel discussion

**Date:** Friday, 30 May, 2014

**Time:** 09:00-10:30

**Rooms:** S01-02

**Language:** English

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**Organized by:** Third Generation Environmentalism (E3G)  
and ICLEI

## OBJECTIVE

Cities are a key contributor and also solution-provider to climate change. This is even more true with regards to Chinese cities as they are still growing at an incredibly fast pace but are increasingly affected and constrained by the impact of climate change. Existing and new cities in China have to face up to the challenge and become more climate-resilient for the safety and wellbeing of their residents.

This session will explore the opportunities and challenges of low carbon, resilient urban development in Chinese cities, especially in the context of EU-China cooperation. E3G and Germanwatch have been working with cities in China and Europe to promote sustainable urbanization through cooperation and sharing of best practices. This is carried out under the framework of the EU-China Urbanization Partnership signed in 2012. In addition, GIZ supports Chinese cities in reaching their Low Carbon Development and Energy Efficiency targets, which have been defined in the 12th Five-Year-Plan (2011-2015), and the recently published new urbanization strategy (2014-2020).

This panel session will feature a lively discussion among the audience and panelists on resilient urban development policy and measures in Chinese cities. It will also focus on the exchange of best practice of resilient urban planning and local instruments for innovative climate and energy policy solutions in the context of Sino-European city partnerships and networks. In addition, China's national adaptation policy and regional responses to climate change will also be explored. This will be concluded by recommendations for how more resilient urban development pathway can be accelerated in both China and Europe.

## OUTCOMES

Participants will gain a better understanding of:

- An overview of what Chinese cities are doing with regards to climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- How and in what respects European cities can work with Chinese cities to help accelerate low carbon urbanization in both regions; and
- Strategies for horizontal policy integration of climate resilience across cities in the EU and China



## METHODOLOGY

- Time break down of the session (90 minutes total).
- The facilitator will open the session with a short introduction of the session topic and each speaker. **(5 minutes)**
- Each presenter will be allotted 10 minutes. **(4 x 10 minutes)**
- The facilitator will debate key issues with panelists. **(15 minutes)**
- The facilitator will open the question and answer to the audience to share their experiences. In particular, the presenters will pose key questions where they would like audience feedback, and audience members are encouraged to comment on these. **(25 minutes)**
- The facilitator will conclude with closing remarks. **(5 minutes)**

### Some guiding questions for the session:

1. What are the concrete areas where European and Chinese cities can learn from each other in low carbon resilient urban development? Which mechanisms allow the efficient transfer of best practice approaches?
2. What instruments and structures are needed for horizontal integration in the context of multi-level governance?
3. Which factors are currently being left out of low carbon resilient urban development but could benefit cities in both Europe and China?
4. Is the approach of city partnerships a successful model to boost cooperation on meeting energy efficiency and renewable energy targets, and in addressing challenges in two cities in Europe and China?

## CONTRIBUTORS

Facilitator *Shin Wei Ng, Senior Policy Advisor, E3G, London, UK*

Panelist *Dirk Rommeney, Policy Officer, Germanwatch, Berlin, Germany*

### **The Role of Cities in China's Low Carbon Transition**

Dirk Rommeney will address trends, challenges, and opportunities of the rapid, continuing urbanization taking place in China. He will also address links between cities and climate change and outline national policy and strategies that foster and accelerate a low carbon development path in Chinese cities.

Panelist *Stefan Werner, Program Manager, Low Carbon Urban Development, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, China*

### **Sino-German cooperation on low carbon development: GIZ project examples and cooperation potentials for the future**

In the context of the Sino-German Urbanization Partnership Germany is supporting China in reaching its Low Carbon Development and Energy Efficiency targets defined



in the 12th Five-Year-Plan (2011-2015), and the recently published new urbanization strategy (2014-2020). In this presentation an overview of a selection of ongoing cooperation projects will be given and future collaboration potentials will be outlined.

Panelist *Lina Li, Consultant, Ecofys, Cologne, Germany*

**Mitigation efforts in Chinese cities and cooperation potential with the German/European partners**

Lina Li will provide an overview of Wuhan and Chengdu's low carbon development strategies and policy/program examples in key sectors. She will further present recommendations for the cities to advance their low carbon development and cooperation potential with its German partner cities. General conclusions or observations will include mitigation and adaptation policy development in China and its urban areas.

Panelist *Samuel Guihua Wang, PhD Candidate, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong*

**Climate change adaptation in China: national policy and regional practice**

Samuel Wang will present a brief snapshot of national adaptation planning and its implementation in China. In addition, a case study experience in regional practice – climate change adaptation responses in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region – will also be shared. The findings with regard to institutional barriers and social drivers demonstrate a unique response to climate change at the local level. The insights of national adaptation policy and regional adaptive responses in China may provide a reference point and experience for similar cases in Asia and beyond.