

# On the Path of Promoting China's Ecological Civilization Construction

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**Abstract:** China's ecological civilization construction needs to be promoted from many aspects. It is necessary to strengthen supervision and law enforcement, in order to promote the implementation of the ecological civilization system and the implementation of laws and regulations. It should also transform the traditional production methods of high energy consumption, high pollution and high emissions, and vigorously develop low-carbon economy and circular economy. At the same time, through the means of propaganda and education, we will cultivate the awareness of the ecological civilization of the whole people and accelerate the establishment of the socialist ecological civilization concept. Learning from the advanced experience at home and abroad is also an effective measure to promote the construction of ecological civilization.

## 1. Introduction

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, remarkable achievements have been made in the construction of ecological civilization in China. However, the effectiveness of ecological civilization construction is not stable, water pollution, air pollution are still relatively serious. The construction of ecological civilization has a long way to go, and it is urgent to further advance from the aspects of increasing law enforcement, changing production methods, and establishing the awareness of ecological civilization.

## 2. Strengthen supervision and enforcement of the law

Since the Third Plenary Session of the Eighteenth Central Committee in November 2013, the Chinese government has paid great attention to the institutional construction of ecological civilization, formulated dozens of reform plans, established many regulations, such as the main functional area system, the natural asset property rights system, the evaluation system, the protection accountability system, the ecological environment damage compensation system, the resource compensatory use system, and the emission (pollution) trading system, etc., and established and implemented the central environmental protection supervision system, which basically has formed a full chain from source prevention and control to process monitoring to after-event supervision system. [1]

The legal and regulatory system for the construction of ecological civilization has also been continuously improved. China has introduced laws and regulations in the field of environmental protection. Many of them, such as "Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Air Pollution", "Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution", "Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Soil Pollution", "Marine Environmental Protection Law of the People's Republic of China", "Law of the People's Republic of China on Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Waste" and "the Law of the People's Republic of China on Environmental Impact Assessment", have been introduced and revised. The "Environmental Protection Law of the People's Republic of China", which came into effect on January 1, 2015, is the most stringent new environmental protection law in history. It stipulates that there will be continuous punishment on a daily basis and no ceiling limit. The detention will also be carried out for those responsible for the falsification of data and contamination let by clandestinely and by seep. And the environmental

protection department is given the right to seal up and seize property. A “blacklist” system has been established that environmental violation information is recorded into social credit archives and a list of offenders is published to the public.

However, the environmental pollution problem has not been effectively solved, and the ecological environmental protection situation is still grim. The Global Environmental Performance Index scored 50.74 points in China and ranked 120th among 180 countries and regions. From the EPI rankings over the years, China's environmental performance rankings have been always in a lower position in all participating countries.<sup>[2]</sup> Many pollution discharge enterprises are still weak in law-abiding. There is a phenomenon of local protectionism in environmental protection law enforcement, which increases the difficulty of law enforcement supervision. The environmental supervision and enforcement is still not standardized. The shortage of personnel, as well as the insufficient public participation in environmental law enforcement, affects the implementation of the ecological civilization system and putting into practice of laws and regulations concerned. In view of this, it is necessary to increase supervision and enforcement, which is one of the effective ways to promote the construction of ecological civilization.

Strengthen supervision and law enforcement, and greatly increase the cost of environmental violations. Advanced law enforcement equipment is adopted to implement dynamic monitoring of resources and environment, so as to investigate and collect evidence, timely obtain data such as PM2.5 value, decibel, sound, water quality and quality. Monitoring information is shared to provide scientific basis for environmental law enforcement, so that the difficulty to investigate and obtain evidence should be effectively cracked. [3] Severe punishment is imposed on the enterprises once their major violations of environmental problems are discovered. In addition to daily penalties, illegal enterprises are notified and criticized, and, are restricted on loan and financing activities through releasing the corporate credit red list, and even listed supervision.

Strengthening the regulatory and law enforcement forces, we also need to improve the environmental management mechanism. Establish a unified environmental management organization, clarify the powers and responsibilities of various environmental law enforcement entities, and avoid the situation of multiple management and buck-passing. Integrate law enforcement resources, enhance cooperation among different of departments such as those of environmental protection, public security inspection, industry and commerce, safety supervision and the others, and form a scientific and efficient environmental monitoring and law enforcement coordination mechanism.[4] or set up an environmental police team to strengthen supervision and enforcement.

Optimizing the environmental law enforcement team is also a means of strengthening supervision and effective law enforcement. Law enforcement personnel must have good professional and moral qualities. Therefore, it is necessary to carry out environmental protection and supervision and law enforcement training to improve their professional knowledge and proficiency. At the same time, to strengthen the cultivation of responsibility and moral quality is also needed.

In addition, the participation of the public in environmental supervision is conducive to the promotion of effective enforcement of environmental supervision and enforcement. People can report through social software such as WeChat and micro-blog, and online reporting platform. People can initiate legal proceedings of environmental public interest, bring the inaction of the environmental protection department or local government to court, forcing them to perform their duties.

### **3. Transform the mode of production**

The rapid growth of China's economy is still at the expense of a large amount of energy consumption and overdraft environment. In 2017, China's steel consumption exceeded the total consumption of steel in the United States, Japan and the European Union, accounting for 51% of the world's total. Cement consumption accounts for about 60% of the world's total, and energy consumption accounts for 25% of the world's total. China's energy consumption per unit of GDP is significantly higher than the world average and developed countries. [5] If we do not accelerate the

adjustment of industrial structure and change the mode of economic development, resources will not be supported; the environment will not be able to accommodate; society will not be able to bear it; economic development will be difficult to sustain; and survival will be threatened.

It is an important initiative to promote the construction of China's ecological civilization to transform industrial production methods with high production, high consumption and high pollution, vigorously develop circular economy and low-carbon economy, accelerate the formation of industrial structure conducive to save energy and resources, and protect the ecological environment, and accelerate the development of the tertiary industry.

As a social citizen, enterprises have an unshakable responsibility for the sustainable development of resources and the environment. They should pay attention to environmental protection production, increase investment in ecological civilization construction, fully consider the requirements for ecological environmental protection throughout the production process; continuously promote the development and innovation of ecological environmental protection technologies, and use new technologies such as the Internet, big data, artificial intelligence, etc. to promote the intelligent and clean transformation of traditional industries.

#### **4. The whole people establish awareness of ecological civilization**

The whole people must establish an ecological civilization concept that respects nature, conforms to nature, and protects nature, and foster awareness of ecological civilization. This requires developing education of the ecological civilization for the whole people, and taking ecological civilization education as an important part of national quality education, incorporating it into the curriculum system of schools with different levels in order to enhance the awareness of ecological concerns. It is a systematic project to launch ecological civilization education. Schools must broaden their thinking and actively explore various ways of ecological civilization education. Improving teachers' ecological morality is an important prerequisite and guarantee for students to strengthen ecological civilization education. Campus ecological culture construction activities should be vigorously carried out. To improve students' understanding for ecosystem and ecological development, various ecological knowledge should be popularized and publicized through campus publicity, network services, classroom education and other forms. It is suggested that colleges, high schools and elementary schools also actively carry out the hardware construction of campus ecological civilization, build a "green campus", and form into a good campus ecological civilization environment. At the same time, efforts will be made to create a campus culture atmosphere that respects nature, protects the ecology, protects the environment, and conserves resources, which has a positive impact on students and plays an important catalytic role in the formation of their ecological values.

Expanding publicity is an important means of establishing an ecological civilization concept and raising ecological awareness. At present, many people do not know that June 5 is World Environment Day, and 12369 is the national unified environmental hotline. It is required that the guidance role of public opinion should be given full play and the multi-level, multi-form ecological civilization construction propaganda should be extensively carried out through news media such as radio, television, newspapers, and etc. In the propaganda, the celebrity effect should be fully exerted, the grassroots class should be widely mobilized, the importance and main content of the development of ecological civilization should be vigorously promoted, the awareness of ecological worries, participation and responsibility of the whole people should be enhanced, and a good public opinion environment conducive to the construction of ecological civilization should be formed. We will mobilize the enthusiasm of the broad masses of people to participate in the construction of ecological civilization, give full play to the positive role of every family and every citizen, and achieve shared growth through collaboration and joint contribution through shared benefits in the construction of ecological civilization.

In recent years, the ecological awareness of Chinese residents has been continuously improved, but the overall situation is not optimistic. For example, China implemented the "ban on single-use

plastics” on June 1st, 2008, but those bags that do not meet the standards still have a large market in the farmer's market. The ecological civilization concept of rural residents is even weaker. Many people in the vast rural areas are indifferent to environmental protection. They, lacking the environmental habits that start from me and start from small things around us, believe that environmental protection is a matter of the government, which has nothing to do with individuals. Even some of them have made irrational behaviors for their own benefits that are not conducive to environmental protection. For example, the environmental pollution is caused by annual straw burning in some rural areas of China. Therefore, the establishment of a national ecological civilization concept and the improvement of ecological awareness will be a long-term and arduous task.

Advocate green consumption which not only focuses on the consumption of materials, but also on the consumption of spiritual life, and attaches importance on a simple and relaxed life. Compared with traditional consumption, green consumption is characterized by that human consumption behavior is harmonious with the natural environment, consistent with the sustainable development of human society, and compatible with the sustainable development of the economy. Green consumption is in line with the requirements of the scientific development concept and is an important part of building a harmonious society.

## **5. Learning from domestic and foreign experiences**

The experience in Zhejiang is worth learning. Zhejiang Province leads in the prevention and control of water pollution in China. Not only the inferior five types of water quality have been eliminated, but also the black and odorous water bodies have been basically eliminated. Due to the large-scale production and processing of crystals, River Pujiang was once polluted seriously. Zhejiang Provincial Party Committee attaches great importance to the comprehensive improvement of the water environment. After only two years, the water control work was successful. The “Thousand Village Demonstration and Ten Thousand Village Renovation” project has achieved remarkable results. For example, there is a sewage treatment pond in Huanxi Village, Jiangnan Town, Tonglu County. Every family has a well. The domestic sewage is treated and recycled. More than 300 acres of lotus fields are irrigated. In Xiajiang Village, Fengshuling Town, Chun'an County, the garbage is put together by household, collected by the village, transported by the town and processed by the county. Garbage is divided into two categories: rotten and non-destructive.

We can also learn from the successful measures of building an ecological civilization in other countries. The experience of Japan is worth learning. After the Second World War, the ecological environment in Japan was destroyed because of the pursuit of economic development. By the end of the 1960s, it became a public nuisance in the world. Minamata diseases and bone pains occurred. The Japanese government has made painstaking efforts to change the production and life style of mass production, mass discharge and mass abandonment. Japan established and improved the ecological civilization construction regulations system including both comprehensive laws (environmental basic law) and specialized laws (air pollution prevention and control law, river law, etc.) while set up and perfected the ecological civilization construction management system; formulated ecological civilization construction strategy and implementation plan. It vigorously developed environmental protection technology and recycle economy, promoted energy-saving and emission- reduction while it paid attention to education for the whole people as a result that the national ecological consciousness is strong.

## **6. Conclusion**

In short, China should promote the construction of the ecological civilization from various aspects in order to win the blue sky defense war in 2020, basically realize the beautiful China in 2035, and comprehensively realize it in 2050. There are the important ways and measures such as strengthening supervision and intensifying law enforcement, transforming production methods, and establishing a

socialist ecological civilization concept and drawing on advanced experience at home and abroad.

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