**POCACITO Webinar with China** 

## Low-Carbon Pilot Cities in China: Taking Guangyuan as an Example

Dr. Ying CHEN (cy\_cass@163.com) Institute for Urban and Environmental Studies (IUE) Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)



## Content

- Brief Introduction to China's Climate Change Policy
- Urbanisation Process and Potential Impacts on Carbon Emissions
- Low-Carbon City Pilot and Demonstration Programme
- Case Study in Guangyuan



### China's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC)

Transition of the second secon



COP21.CMP11

- To achieve the peaking of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions around 2030 and making best efforts to peak early;
- To lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per unit of GDP by 60% to 65% from the 2005 level;
- To increase the share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to around 20%;
- To increase the forest stock volume by around
  4.5 billion cubic meters on the 2005 level.

# Achievement made by 2014

- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per unit of GDP is 33.8% lower than the 2005 level;
- The share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption is 11.2%;
  - The installed capacity of hydro power is 300 gigawatts (2.57 times of that for 2005);
  - The installed capacity of on-grid wind power is 95.81 gigawatts (90 times of that for 2005);
    - The installed capacity of solar power is 28.05 gigawatts (400 times of that for 2005); and
    - The installed capacity of nuclear power is 19.88 gigawatts (2.9 times of that for 2005).
- The forested area and forest stock volume are increased respectively by 21.6 million hectares and 2.188 billion cubic meters compared to the 2005 levels;





### Policies and Measures to Implement INDCs

- Implementing Proactive National Strategies on Climate Change
- Improving Regional Strategies on Climate Change
- Building a Low-Carbon Energy System
- Building an Energy Efficient and Low-Carbon Industrial System
- Controlling Emissions from Building and Transportation Sectors
- Increasing Carbon Sinks
- Promoting the Low-Carbon Way of Life
- Enhancing Overall Climate Resilience
- Innovating Low-Carbon Development Growth Pattern
- Enhancing Support in terms of Science and Technology
- Increasing Financial and Policy Support
- Promoting Carbon Emissions Trading Market
- Improving Statistical and Accounting System for GHG Emissions
- Broad Participation of Stakeholders
- Promoting International Cooperation on Climate Change

# Innovating Low-Carbon Development Growth Pattern

- To advance low-carbon pilots in provinces and cities;
- To conduct low-carbon cities (towns) pilots as well as low-carbon industrial parks, low-carbon communities, low-carbon business and low-carbon transport pilots;
- To explore diversified patterns of low-carbon growth;
- To research on effective approaches to control carbon emissions in different regions and cities;



# **Urbanization Process in China**

Urbanization rate was about 54% in 2014 and is estimated to go up to 70% in 2030.



## Potential Impacts of Urbanization on Carbon Emissions

IEA estimated that Urban area consumes 67% of total energy and is responsible for over 70% of emissions

- Large number of migrants
- Public service: large scale infrastructure construction demands for heavy industry
- Housing: about 60bm<sup>2</sup> stock of existing buildings and 1.8bm<sup>2</sup> of new residential buildings built annually
- Employment pressure
- Lifestyle changed: more electronic appliances
- Energy mix: biomass to commercial energy
- Environmental impacts including carbon emissions





### International Comparison of Urbanization and Carbon Emissions



### Can China Find Low Carbon Development Pathways in Provinces and Cities?

#### Low-Carbon City Pilot Programme:

The First batch: 5 provinces + 8 cities (July 2010)

The Second batch: 1 + 28 including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangyuan and etc. (Dec. 2012)



## **Recent Progress in Low-carbon Pilots and Demonstration**

- Of 42 pilot provinces and cities,
- **\*13 established low-carbon development funds**
- **\*36 developed carbon reduction target decomposition and assessment mechanisms**
- All have clearly put forward peak targets or are studying the issue, and the peak year proposed is 2025 or before.
- **\*U.S.-China Climate Leaders Declaration** On the Occasion of the First Session of the U.S.-China Climate-Smart/Low-Carbon Cities Summit (Los Angeles, Sept. 15-16th 2015)



### **Basic information of Guangyuan City**

- GY located in northern Sichuan Province, south-western of China, consisting of 3 districts and 4 counties with a long history. 16.3 thousand km<sup>2</sup> and 3.14 million population
- GY is the only low-carbon city pilot in Sichuan Province, also known as an excellent tourist city, national forestry city, national sanitary city.
- GY developed rapidly after "5.12" earthquake in 2008.

### Reach 30% target of 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan ahead of time

CO<sub>2</sub> /GDP reduced by 33.4% below 2010 level in 2014. CO<sub>2</sub> per capita is less than 1.5 tons.



## **Structural Adjustment**

- Characteristic agriculture
- Strategic emerging industry
- Service (tourism, leisure activities, etc.)



#### Energy use growth (2006-2013)



## Non-fossil fuel is 23.36% of energy mix

- Natural gas 180million m<sup>3</sup>/y
- methane from biomass (75% users in rural area)
- Hydro power 2.15 Gigawatts
- Other renewable energy 0.19Gigawatts

## **Transportation and Buildings**

- Public buildings retrofitted and managed to reduce energy use per m<sup>2</sup> by 3.2%, energy use per capita by 4%
- Green buildings pilot 2 projects
- Low-carbon pilot communities 12 (city level) and 24 (county level)
- Public transportation system including 150km special "green lane" for riding bicycle and hiking, 1000 bicycles for free, 6300 natural gas bus, etc.



## **Carbon Sinks**

Forestry coverage was about 54.6% in 2014, 2.3 percentage higher than in 2010. It is estimated that forestry can absorb 24.1 million tonnes in 2010, which is about 4.5 times of carbon emissions from fossil fuel.



嘉陵江上游生态屏障

## Institutional Construction and Capacity Building

- Low-carbon Bureau as leading group
- Inventory of GHGs emission (2010 base year)
- Guidelines for low-carbon industrial park and community
- Carbon reduction target decomposition and low carbon assessment indicators for districts and counties
- Cooperation with institutes, universities and NGOs
- Training and education to raise the public awareness for low carbon lifestyle, for example, Low-Carbon Day initiated 5 years ago, 3 years before the central government; low-carbon information website; annual report on low-carbon city pilot, etc.

