

Summary Report

Roundtable Meeting with a Chinese Delegation Drafting Legislation On Renewable Energy Promotion for the Government of the People's Republic of China

8 April 2004

Organized and supported by:
United Nations Department of Economic & Social Affairs;
The Energy Project of Pace Law School; and
The World Conservation Union (IUCN) Commission on Environmental Law, Climate and Energy Specialist Group

I. Introduction

At the request of a delegation of high level Chinese delegation charged with drafting legislation on renewable energy promotion for the Government of the People's Republic of China, the above sponsors held a roundtable meeting with the delegation on April 8, 2004 at the Pace University Midtown Center.

Beverly Kahn, Pace University Assistant Provost for International Programs, and Kui-Nang (Peter) Mak, Chief, Energy and Transport Branch, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs greeted the participants and underlined the importance that the sponsoring groups attach to the mission of the Chinese delegation.

II. Presentations

Richard Ottinger, Dean Emeritus of Pace Law School and Director of the IUCN CEL Specialist Group, made a presentation on some key issues of importance in drafting renewable energy promotion legislation, emphasizing pricing issues such as subsidy removal, life-cycle costing and inclusion of externality costs.

Ralph Wahnschafft and Friedrich Soltau of UNDESA reviewed important policy measures and regulatory frameworks for promoting renewable energy. They emphasized the need for stability and predictability of incentives provided in renewable energy legislation, discussing legal guarantees for access to the electricity grid, feed-in tariffs, quotas and portfolio standards, tendering offers, net metering, green pricing, rural electrification, public benefit funds, generator and customer incentives, and creation of national renewable development and financing agencies.

Jeffrey Peterson of the New York State Energy Research and Development Agency and Fred Zalcman, Executive Director of the Pace Energy Project described in detail the establishment of the renewable energy structure in New York State, its regulation and funding, and its proposal for a renewable portfolio standard and the considerations that need to be considered for instituting such a standard. Peterson emphasized the research on resources conducted by New York and the education and training programs run by his agency starting at the high school level.

Susan Gouchoe of the North Carolina State University Solar Energy Center and the Interstate Renewable Energy Council described the renewable energy programs currently in operation in the states of the US, the legislative promotion measures they have adopted and lessons learned re which measures are most successful. She also described the DSIRE website that has an interactive U.S map, enabling access to each state's activities and a sea4rch engine permitting analysis of incentives by technology, incentive type, eligible sector and community, together with summary information, available at www.desireusa.org.

Jayarao Gururaja of UNDESA described how, under his leadership, his native country of India established thriving renewable energy programmes through establishment of a unique Ministry of Renewable Energy and a variety of incentive and educational programs. Roger Raufer of UNDESA compared engineering and economic models of renewable energy programs and the relationship between quantitative standards and economic incentives. He advanced the feasibility for China of establishing its own wind energy construction industry.

The discussion with the Chinese delegation was lively, with many questions from its members such as about how to set standards, the effectiveness of different incentive programs and how to overcome the high initial costs of renewable energy.

Complete copies of the presentations are available at <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/>.

III. List of Participants

Non-Pace Participants:

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
Peter Mak, Chief, Energy and Transport Branch
Ralph Washnschafft
Friedrich Soltau
Shaoyi Li
Jayarao Gururaja
Roger Raufer,

Will Kennedy, UN Fund for International Partnerships
Jeffrey Peterson, New York State Energy research and Development Agency (NYSERDA)
Steve Weissman, Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (invited)
Susan Gouchoe, Interstate Renewable Energy Council
Marc Berthold, Boell Foundation (invited)

Delegation of Chinese Officials (12) (list attached)

Pace Participants:

Associate Provost Beverly Kahn
 Professor Richard Ottinger
 Professor Fred Zalcman
 Professor Richard Schlessinger
 Professor Julian Gregory
 Professor Joseph Lee

List of Participants

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1	Shi Lishan	Energy Bureau of NDRC	No. 38, Yuetan Nanjie, Xicheng District, Beijing, China, 100038	Director	68501262
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7	Yan Cheng	Renewable Energy Division of Science and Technology Education Department of MOA	No.11, Nongzhanguan Nanli, Chaoyang, District, Beijing, 100026, P.R.China	Deputy Director	64193076/68 13366255386 kjsnyc@agri.gov.cn
8	Zhou Fengqi	China Renewable Energy Scale-Up Program Management Office	B1516, Guohong Mansion, A11, Muxidi Beili, Xicheng District, Beijing, 100038, P.R.China	Professor	63908566 (t & f)
9	Meng Yanbei	Law School of	No.59,	Lecturer	80792320/8264498

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10	Wang Zhongying	Center for Renewable Energy Development of ERI	B1418, Guohong Mansion, A11, Muxidi Beili, Xicheng District, Beijing, 100038, P.R.China	Director	63098473/63908468(f)
11	Ren Dongming	Center for Renewable Energy Development of ERI	B1718, Guohong Mansion, A11, Muxidi Beili, Xicheng District, Beijing, 100038, P.R.China	Associate Professor	63908768(t & f)
12	Song Yanqin	Center for Renewable Energy Development of ERI	B1416, Guohong Mansion, A11, Muxidi Beili, Xicheng District, Beijing, 100038, P.R.China	Associate Professor	63098475/63908468(f)