

# Eco forum upholds balance of man, nature

By YANG JUN and ZHANG ZHAO in Guiyang

The harmony between man and nature is a principle that the Chinese people have upheld for thousands of years, and in the modern world, ecological development requires innovation and global cooperation, said government officials and scholars at a forum that opened on July 27 in Guiyang, capital of Guizhou province.

The Eco-Forum Global, Guiyang, with a focus on "Green economy and inclusive growth in a transformational world", is being promoted as a platform for governments, companies and scholars to showcase their latest achievements and exchange views about ecological development.

Li Jinhua, vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, said that many developing nations, including China, are going to achieve modernization in the next 40 years, and their development must be carried out along green lines.

"The green transformation can lead to great fortune so that all of society can share the fruits of development," said Li.

In addition to progressing along an innovative path toward development, future economic development should focus more on improvements to the public quality of life, balanced distribution of wealth as well as multilateral exchanges and cooperation.

Former German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said green economy and inclusive growth are among "the most important issues of our time, because only sustainable development and ecological modernization of the economy can secure the livelihood of future generations".

He also said that China "can and will" play a positive role in ecological modernization.

He added that China and Europe have great potential for cooperation in terms of environmentally friendly development.

"It is in our common interest that China and Europe should work closely together," he said.

"This will lead to mutual ben-

efit, which is the consequence of globalization."

Europe can be a partner of China, providing technical know-how with regard to ecological modernization, which is also in the interest of Europe, because "without progress in China, the prevention of climate change and creation of a sustainable energy supply cannot be achieved", he said.

Zhao Kezhi, the Party chief and governor of Guizhou, said the province is attempting an innovative development path that "can break the confines of resources and allow all people to enjoy the achievement of economic development".

One of the projects is an emigration plan launched this year, under which 1.5 million residents who live in forested areas will move to townships and industrial zones to improve ecological conditions inside forests, and at the same time, residents will be offered jobs.

"Ecological improvement requires everyone's hard work, but it also needs us to cooperate, sharing opportunities and facing challenges together," Zhao said.

Zhou Qifeng, president of Peking University, also called for innovation in terms of ecological education. "Universities should be models of sustainability, setting up eco-friendly examples for communities."

Jia Qinglin, chairman of the CPPCC national committee, said in a letter to the forum, that the event, which has been held for four consecutive years, is playing an active role in exploring ecological development models, promoting experience, and the theme of this year's forum caters to the world trend of green economy and sustainable development.

The Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology has launched a series of projects to treat pollution, develop new energy and materials, and protect the natural environment.

It also encourages companies to venture into industries involved in environmental protection.

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Zhao Kezhi (left), Guizhou Party chief and governor, Li Jinhua (center), vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and Gerhard Schroeder, former German chancellor, attend the opening ceremony of the Eco-Forum Global in Guiyang, capital of Guizhou province, on Friday. The theme of the ongoing event is "Green economy and inclusive growth in a transformational world".

## Danish energy firm has lessons for China

By LIU XIANGRUI in Guiyang

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After many years of green development, Guiyang, capital city of southwestern China's Guizhou province, is starting to attract ecologically friendly industries.

As a city with rich natural resources, a fragile karst environment and a relatively underdeveloped economy, Guiyang has long sought to transform its mode of development.

"Guiyang has been a pioneer in ecological development around the nation, and it echoes the concept of sustainable development advocated by the central government," said Alfred Che, vice-president of Danfoss China, on Friday during his second appearance at Guiyang's annual Eco-Forum Global, an international event that has been held since 2009.

Danfoss, a leading Danish energy technology company, has built one of its six Chinese bases in Guiyang.

Because the public quality of life is improving greatly in Guiyang, there is an increasing demand for heating despite the city's relatively short winter, Che said. He said his company sees great investment potential in Guiyang's trend toward environmentally friendly development.

Guiyang has been listed several times as one of China's low-carbon cities. Its goal of achieving "a green rise" has paid off, further driving the transformation of the city's development mode.

In the first half of this year, its GDP reached 68.6 billion yuan (\$10.7 billion), a year-on-year increase of 15.7 percent. It ranked first among nearly 20 capital cities with the strongest GDP growth during the period.

"Although Guiyang is relatively lagging behind economically, it still has a late-development advantage if it chooses the right path of development," Che said. "In this sense, Guiyang can be a leader in low-carbon economy in China if it plays its role well."

Che also suggested that Guiyang could learn from the experiences of Denmark in terms of green energy.

Denmark has been a leading country in Europe in new energy and the reduction of carbon emissions. However, it was not always a leader. It used to have an energy structure that was largely dependent on fossil fuel like that of China today.

Denmark was hit by the first global energy crisis in the 1970s and started an energy revolution afterward.

"The country acted and built a strong new energy industry,"

Che said. "Guiyang has the same advantage in that respect, and the local government has been seeking a new development mode."

Peter Rathje, managing director of a sustainable development program in Denmark, introduced his experiments in Sonderborg, a Danish city with a population of 77,000, in 2007.

The program, known as Project Zero, is based on the results of strategic research on sustainable development by some 80 experts in Denmark.

The aim of the project is

to achieve zero carbon emission by 2029 through energy efficient technologies, district heating programs and renewable energy.

They have already cut carbon emissions by 80 percent. The project has also created more than 1,000 jobs in ecological projects. Denmark's national plan to end all carbon emissions by 2050 is based on their plan.

Rathje said Chinese cities are incredibly interested in their progress. About every two weeks, representatives of different cities and provinces visit

Sonderborg to learn about their project.

He observed that industries in Guiyang have largely started to steer away from traditional sectors, such as the mining of minerals, and he said Guiyang has a grasp on green solutions, including green energy, water conservation and waste disposal.

"I learned Guiyang is taking this responsibility and is ambitious to become a leading city in eco-development, but it has to make a specific target and set an agenda for their commitment."



The audience listen attentively during the event.

## Park is green heart of city's new area

JUSTIN WARD

A short walk away from Guiyang's newly built skyscraping monuments to modernity sits Guanshan Lake Park, an idyllic natural refuge from the hectic pace of city life.

Completed in July of last year, the 70,000 square meter park is a central feature of Guiyang's Jinyang New Area,



A volunteer hangs a tree protection sign in the park. Guiyang's citizens are keenly aware of its ecological environment.

which city planners envision will one day become the metropolitan core of the city.

One of the city's seven ecological parks, Guanshan Lake is also a stone's throw away from city's new convention and exhibition center, which is currently hosting the 2012 Eco-Forum Global, an international convention for world leaders to discuss today's pressing environmental issues.

When the city is not hosting a convention, the park is

mostly populated by local retirees, who come to catch wild fish in the park's lake or to take a leisurely stroll on one of the many wooden pathways that cross broad swaths of reeds, lilies and other lush wetland vegetation.

One retired man, who declined to be named, said he comes to the park to ride his bicycle every day that it does not rain. He moved to Guiyang a few years back when he retired to live with his children and in the short time he has lived in the city, he has noticed incredible changes, especially in Jinyang.

"This whole area used to be farmland only a few years ago," he said, motioning with his hand. "Now, it is full of skyscrapers." The multitude of tall apartments surrounding the park bear silent testimony to the kind of high hopes the city has for Jinyang in the coming years.

According to the website of the Guiyang city government, the population of the new area is expected to grow exponentially in the next five years as the city strives to develop into

**OVERSEAS EYE ON GUIYANG** a regional hub and attract more enterprises to establish

headquarters within the area. Jinyang has been built with an eye toward future potential traffic problems that are likely to arise from rapid growth, according to the city government.

"Every year it changes," the man said. "In this district, traffic is smooth. In the old town, the streets were crowded all the time, but here, they are wide."

From 2004 to 2008, the population of the area more than doubled from 70,000 to 180,000, and this trend is likely to be accelerated in the near future now that offices are starting to relocate there.

Another visitor to the park, Wang Juan, a housewife whose husband works in Jinyang, moved to Guizhou a few years ago from another province. She said Guiyang is a good place to raise children.

"The air quality here is good and the environment is well protected," she said. She also added that the



Gerhard Schroeder, former German chancellor, waters a tree in the Eco-Forest in Guanshan Lake Park, a central feature of Guiyang's Jinyang New Area.

area has good high schools and primary schools.

Guanshan Lake Park is also increasingly being used as a site for events. When Guiyang hosted the ninth Traditional Games for Ethnic Groups of

China, the park was used for a massive feast with 9,999 tables. Its Spring Festival celebration is so popular that security guards say they have to portion out the tickets among several different days

because the park becomes so overwhelmed.

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