

Notes: The opinions and suggestions below do not represent the view of CTCI Foundation as CTCI Foundation is merely providing a platform for scholarly exchanges.

Suggestions to the Government from the Forum of "Climate Change - Adaptation"

As a non-profit organization, CTCI Foundation has recently transformed into a professional think tank for environmental and energy specialty, providing a platform for exchanges of information and emerging knowledge. Seeing the irreversible impact of phenomenon of global warming and climate change, developed countries start to realize that, the socio-economic development of mankind can only be sustained through efficient use of resources with stable environmental ecology.

Besides continuing on the work of reducing greenhouse gas emission and adjusting current ways of living, coping with the post-global warming age is all the more important. In view of this, CTCI Foundation organized an international conference on Nov. 11th, 2008, and a forum on "Climate-Change Adaptation" the following day, fostering exchanges of opinions regarding Taiwan's national adaptation strategies, framework of adaptation policies and methods, and ways to strengthen adaptation capacity of governmental, academic and professional sectors. CTCI Foundation also cooperated with the China Times to publish conference contents. The summarized suggestions are listed below:

A · Establishing a high-level planning unit with sole responsibility

Strategically speaking from the viewpoint of long-term national security, adaptation and counter-measures to climate change have become an important aspect of national security. Therefore, it is recommended to set up a high-level unit with sole responsibility to regulate and promote climate change adaptation policy, and to integrate and supervise the implementation of various tasks. This unit will need to integrate the work of various ministries, including subjects of regional vulnerability analysis, agricultural, industrial and related field assessment of impacts of climate change, and plan and set up executive structure with regards to issues of flood management, human health, disease prevention and control, land-use planning and disaster insurance. Last but not least, the unit will allocate resources and promote adaptation related measures so as to be included and implemented by relevant ministries into policy planning and budget.

Suggestions include setting up “Office of Measures for Climate Change” for short-term goal and establishing “Supervising Unit for National Climate Change-Adaptation” for medium to long-term goal. The bureau in charge should be endowed with legislative support to make policy implementation easier.

B、To make long-term plans and integrate cross-sectoral adaptation policy according to country-specific circumstances

Because developed countries and developing countries have different measures for climate change-adaptation, they should make appropriate plans according to their own economic growth rate.

The implementation of adaptation policies can not be fully carried out by a single department; it must be carried out with cross-departmental integration, including those of forestry, agriculture, infrastructure, transportation and construction. Priority setting, well-rounded plans, clear and continuing long-term objectives, and regular analysis of effectiveness are all helpful tools for seeing whether assessment policies need adjustment or not, thus preventing waste of resource. All of the coordinating departments need to have a clear understanding of divided responsibilities, duties and the overall framework, so as to make adaptation policies easier to implement.

C、Policies formalization with consensus

The formalization of adaptation policies is vastly different from other governmental policies. The action plans occur before the formalization of strategies. Also, it is difficult for top-down governmental policies to reach a consensus, as it could easily lead to societal opposition and waste of resources. Participation by all in reaching a consensus is the most appropriate in taking control of the issues, understanding the impact of adaptation and finding the most suitable strategies and measures.

D、To establish scenarios simulation system for future socio-economic development and climate change

Having a full grasp of scenarios of Taiwan’s future socio-economic development and climate change is essential for setting appropriate adaptation policies. A scenario simulation system must be constructed as soon as possible for gaining an understanding to the conditions of the future society, so as to set targets and goals for reduction and adaptation.

E 、 Strengthen research studies or introducing assessment technical tools from abroad

All countries have specific planning framework with regards to climate change adaptation. In the case of England's dual-loop management model, one loop is the integration of cross-sector managerial plans, and the other loop is the assessment of department managerial plans. Dual loops compliment each other while carrying out assessments of environmental risks and strategies. The flexibility allows for things such as integration of management categories by various departments, the prioritization of executive categories and set up of management strategies for climate change adaptation.

It is recommended that government should introduce developed assessment technological tools from abroad soon, taking domestic environmental ecology and socio-economic situation into account and planning comprehensive and pragmatic implementation policy for national climate change adaptation.