

SUMMARY REPORT

IUC-Asia Climate Adaptation Workshop Urban Sustainability and Wetland Reservation with Nature-based Solutions

September 16-18, 2020, Yancheng city, Jiangsu Province

By ZHENG Yan, CASS

The Yangtze River Delta urban agglomeration is the most densely populated and economically developed coastal area in China, and it is also a key region for adapting to climate change. Of this urban agglomeration, Yancheng has unique advantages in regional economic pattern. It is among the core area for implementing the "Maritime East Jiangsu" development strategy by virtue of its convenient transportation conditions in aviation, high-speed rail, and expressways. Its per capita GDP reached 11,500 US dollars and permanent population was 7.2 million in 2019. The Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf in Yancheng was successfully included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in July 2019. At present, Yancheng is actively advocate the Yellow Sea Ecological Economic Zone, aiming to promote ecological protection in the Yellow Sea region and build a green and livable beautiful Yancheng. The "*Yancheng City Master Plan (2013-2030)*" puts forward the goals of building Yancheng an emerging coastal city and a wetland eco-tourism city.

In order to promote the coordinated development of climate adaptation and ecological protection in coastal areas, the *Yellow Sea Wetland Research Institute* and the EU's *International Urban Cooperation Project* (IUC) co-hosted this workshop and invited experts from the EU and China in the fields of wetland ecological protection, sustainable urban development, resilient cities, climate adaptation and risk management, eco-tourism, urban planning, etc., officials from Yancheng government departments and scholars from universities to share the cases of European cities and Yancheng with in-depth discussions.

The workshop lasted for three days and included three parts:

I. Afternoon of Sep. 16 – Morning of Sep. 17: Field Trip in Yancheng city and the Yellow Sea coastal wetland area.

The Yellow Sea Wetland Research Institute and Yancheng World Natural Heritage Protection Office invited and organized more than ten Chinese experts and IUC officials to investigate the Yellow Sea Wetland Ecological Park, the Ancient Huai River estuary, the Elk Nature Reserve, the Red-crowned Crane Nature Reserve, etc. in order to have a better understanding of the management of world natural heritage sites and the protection of biodiversity. Experts were impressed by the unique natural landscapes and the scientific designs for ecological protection.



Field visit in the Wetland Nature Reserve

II. Afternoon of Sep. 17: IUC-Asia Climate Adaptation Workshop on " Urban Sustainability and Wetland Reservation with Nature-based Solutions in Coastal Areas".

The online participants included more than 30 EU officials, project experts and Chinese and foreign representatives, and more than 50 offline participants, including over 10 representatives from relevant Yancheng government departments and universities.

The first session was opening speeches. Mr. Octavian Stamate, Climate and Energy Counsellor of the EU Delegation to China, gave a speech, emphasizing that in the context of bilateral cooperation between China and Europe in the field of climate change, this workshop held by the IUC provides a good opportunity to learn from each other and share European nature-based solutions. It is not only conducive to deal with the adverse effects of climate change, but also helps achieve economic recovery to a green and sustainable future under the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Wei JIANG, Deputy Mayor of Yancheng, delivered a speech to welcome all the guests from home and abroad, introducing the progress of Yancheng wetland protection. He welcomed Chinese and European experts to share and communicate on hot issues of global concern such as climate change, ecological resilience, and coastal protection, so as to provide information and support for the upcoming Yancheng Urban Development Conference next week.

The second session was presentation. Mr. Qijiang WU, Wetland & World Heritage Office of Yancheng, introduced the protection of the Yellow Sea Wetland and the application for World Heritage List. Afterwards, experts from China and Europe shared some experiences and cases in their respective fields. Two EU experts introduced coastal green infrastructures in European cities and nature based solutions in European cities – Resilient Practices. In addition, five Chinese experts from well-known Chinese academic institutions including Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing Normal University, Nanjing University, Tongji University, and Sun Yat-sen University, shared their research work and viewpoints from different perspectives, such as the economic values of ecological protection, the restoration of coastal ecosystems in the Yellow Sea Wetland, climate risks and adaptation, wetland eco-tourism, and so on.

The last session was questions and communication. Chinese representatives expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the impressive and resourceful cases and knowledge sharing of the workshop, and asked several questions regarding the adaptation cases of coastal cities introduced by the EU experts. At the request of the delegates, Mr. Pablo Gándara, Team Leader of the EU IUC-Asia Programme, introduced the project and the work carried out in China, and looked forward to further cooperation in more fields.





Opening speech by EU delegate



Chinese Participant sharing appreciation

III. Brainstorming & Participatory Adaptation Planning Workshop on "The Yellow Sea Wetland Protection and Climate Change Adaptation Plan".

The 12 representatives attended the workshop, who were from Yancheng Development and Reform Commission, Natural Resources and Planning Bureau, Ecology and Environment Bureau, Housing and Urban-Rural Development Bureau, Agriculture and Rural Affairs Bureau, Municipal Foreign Affairs Office, Municipal Natural Heritage Office, Rare Bird Wetland Reserve, Elk Nature Reserve, Wetland School of Yancheng Normal University, Yellow Sea Wetland Research Institute

and a local enterprise. Professor Qian YE from Beijing Normal University, Professor Shangbai SHI and Research Fellow Yan ZHENG from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, together with Professor Shuqing AN from Nanjing University online, jointly organized the participatory workshop as facilitators. Based on the special advantages and development needs of Yancheng, combining the Yellow Sea Wetland's heritage management and ecological protection, climate change adaptation and strategic regional development, and drawing on the experience of the EU cities, such as the NBS governance framework, the three experts developed a methodology of participatory adaptation planning for Yancheng case.

At first, the facilitator experts guided representatives of Yancheng government departments in brainstorming and group discussion, summarized the most pressing issues and challenges in their work. Secondly, with questionnaire and group interviews, the climate impacts and risks in Yancheng were assessed as a background for adapting to future climate change. Finally, as suggested by the sectoral representatives, experts from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences assisted in the SWOT analysis and conducted a participatory assessment of the ecological protection and adaptation planning of the Yellow Sea Wetland. The results show that from the perspective of inner factors of Yancheng's development, its strengths (S) are slightly greater than its weakness (W) in adaptation planning for the Yellow Sea Wetland protection; from the perspective of external factors such as regional development, national strategies and international community, the opportunities (O) outweigh threats (T) in Yancheng. Representatives of various departments analyzed and discussed the unfavorable factors affecting the protection of the Yellow Sea Wetland and provided some specific suggestions. A research report and policy brief on this workshop will be submitted to the Yancheng Municipal People's Government as a decision-making support for the Yellow Sea Wetland protection and building sustainable city in Yancheng.



Brainstorming workshop

Annex 1: Agenda Programme

Sept 17, 2020

IUC-Asia Climate Adaptation Workshop: Urban Sustainability and Wetland Reservation with Nature-based Solutions		
Moderator, Professor Yan ZHENG Research Fellow, Climate Change Economics Research Office, CASS		
14:30	Opening Remarks Octavian Stamate, Climate and Energy Counsellor EUROPEAN UNION Delegation to the P.R. of China 开幕致辞 傅维恩 先生, 欧盟驻华代表团 气候行动与能源参赞	5 min
14:35	Opening Remarks Mr. Wei JIANG, Deputy Mayor of Yancheng 开幕致辞 蒋巍 先生, 盐城市副市长	5 min
14:40-15:40	Topic: Yellow Sea Wetland and World Natural Heritage Protection in Yancheng 讲题: 盐城黄海湿地世界自然遗产保护管理与可持续发展行动报告 Director Qijiang WU, Yancheng Wetland & World Heritage Office 吴其江 先生, 盐城市申遗办主任	15 min
	Topic: Economic value and attributes of ecological system services 生态产品的市场属性及其价值溯源 Professor Jiahua PAN Member of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; Director, Research Centre for Sustainable Development, CASS 潘家华学部委员, 中国社会科学院可持续发展研究中心主任/研究员	15 min
	Topic: Coastal green infrastructures in European cities 讲题: 欧洲城市沿海绿色基础设施 Mr. Alberto INNOCENTI, IUC Asia Resilience Expert 阿尔贝托·因诺森蒂先生, 欧盟国际城镇合作项目气候韧性专家	15 min
	Topic: Suggestions on Yancheng's "14th Five-Year Plan" from the perspective of Wetland type World Natural Heritage 讲题: 基于湿地遗产视角下的盐城“十四五规划”建议 Professor Liang WU, Special Researcher of Counsellors' Office of the State Council Executive Dean of the National Modernization Research Institute of Tongji University 吴亮教授, 国务院参事室特约研究员, 同济大学国家现代化研究院执行院长	15 min
15:40-15:50	Coffee Break	10 min

IUC-Asia Climate Adaptation Workshop: Urban Sustainability and Wetland Reservation with Nature-based Solutions		
<p>Chief Moderator: Professor Yan ZHENG, Research Fellow, Climate Change Economics Research Office, CASS 会议主持人: 郑艳教授, 中国社科院气候变化经济学研究室研究员</p>		
15:50-16:50	<p>Topic: Global Challenges and Climate Resilience Building in the Anthropocene 人类世时代的气候风险挑战与韧性建设 Professor <i>Qian YE</i>, Beijing Normal University Executive Director of the Integrated Risk Governance Project 叶谦教授, 北京师范大学, 综合风险防范计划执行主任</p>	15 min
	<p>Topic: Nature Based Solutions in European cities – Resilient Practices 讲题: 欧洲城市的自然解决方案—韧性实践 Mr. Alvaro Fonseca, Chief Project Manager at Water & Climate Adaptation – Ramboll 阿尔瓦罗·丰塞卡先生, 丹麦 Ramboll 咨询公司 水资源及气候适应 首席项目经理</p>	15 min
	<p>Topic: Coastal Wetland Restoration based on Nature Based Solutions 讲题: 基于自然解决方案的滨海湿地修复 Professor Shuqing AN, Chief Scientist of Wetland and Tidal Flat Research Centre Dean of Ecological Research Institute of Changshu, Nanjing University 安树青教授, 南京大学生命科学学院、南京大学湿地生态研究所所长、 南京大学常熟生态研究院院长</p>	15 min
	<p>Topic: Transforming User to Co-manager: A Wetland Case at Mouth of Min River 讲题: 将资源使用者变成管理者: 闽江河口湿地案例 Speaker: Dr. Qifang ZHANG, School of Tourism Management, Sun Yat-sen University 张庆芳博士, 中山大学旅游学院</p>	15 min
16:50-17:40	<p>Interactive Discussion: Q&A</p>	15 min
	<p>Closing remarks Mr. Alex Zhang, Secretary-General of Eco Foundation Global</p>	5 min
	<p>Closing remarks Mr. Pablo Gándara, Team Leader, EU IUC-Asia Programme</p>	5 min

Sept 18, 2020

IUC-Asia Climate Adaptation Workshop: Brainstorming & Participatory Adaptation Planning Workshop		
<p>Moderators and facilitators, Professor Shangbai SHI, Research Fellow, Research Centre for Sustainable Development, CASS Professor Yan ZHENG, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Professor Qian YE, Beijing Normal University Professor Shuqing AN, Nanjing University (online) Dr. Qifang ZHANG, School of Tourism Management, Sun Yat-sen University IUC project office</p>		
<p>PARTICIPANTS: Yancheng Development and Reform Commission, Yancheng Natural Resources and Planning Bureau, Yancheng Ecology and Environment Bureau, Yancheng Housing and Urban-Rural Development Bureau, Yancheng Agriculture and Rural Affairs Bureau, Yancheng Municipal Foreign Affairs Office, Yancheng Municipal Natural Heritage Office, Rare Bird Wetland Reserve of Yancheng, Elk Nature Reserve of Yancheng, Wetland School of Yancheng Normal University, Yellow Sea Wetland Research Institute and the business community of Yancheng.</p>		
09:30 – 10:30	<p>Brainstorming: --- What's the most challenging weakness and obstacles in your sectoral work? (with ISEET framework) --- What's the major climatic risks and impacts in Yancheng (Group discussion and Questionnaire delivery ...)</p>	60 mins
10:30 – 12:45	<p>Participatory Adaptation Planning for Yancheng Yellow Sea: --- Synergy for sustainability, wetland perseveration, coastal development, and other objectives... (with SWOT analysis)</p>	135 mins
	Lunch break	
15:00 – 17:00	<p>Wrap-up meeting and Discussion on the further cooperation --- Yellow See Wetland Institute --- IUC project office --- Professor Yan ZHENG, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences --- Professor Qian YE, Beijing Normal University --- Dr. Qifang ZHANG, School of Tourism Management, Sun Yat-sen University</p>	120 mins