

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

**THE DEPARTMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL
DAMAGE AND FOR THE RELATIONSHIPS WITH EUROPEAN UNION AND
THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
OF THE MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, LAND AND SEA OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ITALY (IMELS)**

AND

**THE INSTITUTE OF QUANTITATIVE AND TECHNICAL ECONOMICS OF THE
CHINESE ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (CASS)**

(Hereinafter referred to as the Parties)

Premised that

For a long term the Parties have been friendly cooperating with other partners under the framework of the Sino-Italian Cooperation Program for Environmental Protection;

The Parties have jointly implemented a number of cooperation projects and research on energy, climate change, water resource management and environment, training programs and international academic conferences;

The cooperation activities of the Parties have supported cutting-edge concepts for environmental protection and sustainable development, best practices from developed countries and outcomes of joint studies to Chinese Government and general public;

Acknowledging the important role played by CASS as the main decision-making consulting entity for China's central Government and its efforts to pursue a sustainable growth and a comprehensive protection of the environment, and the constant support of Italy in the achievement of these objectives;

Considering the relevant role of cooperation between the Parties strategic for strengthening the environmental governance in China and for improving the awareness and decision-making capability of China's policy

makers in the related areas, and accelerate the sustainable and green development of China.

The parties agree that

Article 1

The objective of the present Memorandum of Understanding is to strengthen the cooperation between the Parties by developing a mutually beneficial partnership on environmental protection and sustainable development.

Article 2

The Parties will further promote and facilitate bilateral and multilateral cooperation opportunities on policies, programmes, projects, in areas of common interest, the following areas being identified as mutually priority:

- environmental protection and sustainable development;
- green growth;
- environmental governance;
- economic and social development;
- climate change;
- capacity building;
- other areas as mutually agreed upon.

Article 3

Cooperation between the Parties under this Memorandum of Understanding will be conducted in the following forms:

- promotion of communication activities on approach and exchange of experiences on sustainable development, green growth, governance, environmental protection, economic and social development;
- support to academic and policy research on energy, environment, climate change, water resources management and other important areas to be jointly agreed;
- joint organization of training courses and exchange of experiences aiming at improving Chinese senior decision makers' awareness on

environment and sustainable development and the ability to deal with related issues;

- joint organization of academic conferences to spread and disseminate research achievements as well as international best practices on sustainable development and green growth;
- promotion of cooperation between CASS Graduate School and relevant Italian universities and joint support to master and doctor degree education;
- joint organization of research and other activities to contribute to the success of the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference in Paris;
- jointly organize proper activities to promote Chinese and Italian enterprises to cooperate in the areas of environmental protection and sustainable development in a context of full protection of intellectual property rights.

Article 4

To implement this Memorandum of Understanding, both Parties shall encourage environmental protection organizations, enterprises, municipalities and regional authorities as well as research institutions on both sides to establish and develop direct contacts with each other in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development.

Article 5

The Parties will establish a Joint Steering Committee composed by 4 members, two IMELS representatives and two CASS representatives which will be responsible for: provide general direction and advise of cooperation, approve work programs and executive entities, take financial decision on project, supervise and support the cooperation activities.

The Steering Committee will convene at least once a year. Decision will be made in consensus. The Parties will notify each other within one month from the signature of the present MoU the names of their representatives in the Steering Committee.

The works of the Steering Committee will be open to the participation, as observers, of representatives of the Italian Embassy in Beijing or the

Chinese Embassy in Rome, in accordance with the Country where the meetings are held. In any case each Party will ensure that the activities of the Steering Committee be conducted in coordination with the respective Embassy in the Country of the other Party in order to ensure the highest degree of consistency with the overall dynamic and priorities of the bilateral relations.

Article 6

The Parties will agree on the financial coverage for the activities and establish a mechanism for granting transparency of expenditures, accounting and audit.

Any costs regarding the subject matter under this Memorandum of Understanding will be borne by the Parties without any financial responsibility by the respective Central Government.

Article 7

The parties shall take efforts to seek support from international financing institutions, such as, *inter alia*, World Bank, Global Environmental Facility, European Commission Funds through joint submission of identified projects, in order to finance their implementation and dissemination.

Article 8

The Parties may further specify the implementation of the present Memorandum of Understanding through implementing arrangements. The implementing arrangements shall outline the subject and form of cooperation and shall be an integral part of the present Memorandum of Understanding.

In the event of a conflict between the terms of the implementing arrangements and this Memorandum of Understanding, the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding shall prevail.

Article 9

This Memorandum of Understanding operates in accordance with applicable international law obligations and in full compliance with the national legislation of both Parties, as well as any other obligations arising from Italy's membership in the European Union.

Article 10

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date of signature and shall remain in force for a five-year period.

The Memorandum of Understanding will be automatically extended thereafter for further five years, unless one Party notifies the other in writing three months prior to the expiration of the current term of this Memorandum of Understanding that it does not wish to extend it.

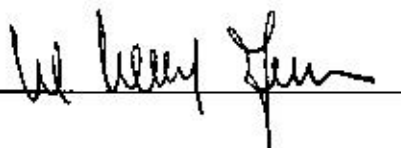
The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding will not affect the validity of any arrangements already made under this Memorandum of Understanding.

Done in duplicate in Beijing on 9 of February 2015 in Chinese and English languages, each version being equally authentic. In case of divergence in interpretation, English version shall prevail.

**For the Italian Ministry for the
Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS),
Department for Sustainable
Development, Environmental Damage
and for the relationships with the
European Union and the International
Organizations**

**For the Chinese Academy of
Social Sciences(CASS),
Institute of Quantitative and
Technical Economics**

Signature: _____



Signature: _____

