

In This Issue

During the session of the 75th United Nations General Assembly, China stated that the country will scale up its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions by adopting more vigorous policies and measures to peak its CO₂ emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.

To deliver its commitments to the global response to climate change, China needs to speed up its ongoing transition to a greener and more low-carbon development. For a developing country with a population of 1.4 billion, it would be a dual challenge to meet this goal, and meanwhile secure the wellbeing of its people.

Aimed at solving this dilemma, arduous efforts are needed to integrate its commitments to tackling climate change with its own eco-social development and environmental targets. To that end, the Research Group on Sustainable Development Strategy of the Chinese Academy of Sciences proposes their solutions in the newly released *China Sustainable Development Report 2020 — Exploring Pathways towards Carbon Neutrality* (in Chinese), based on in-depth investigations and analyses on the current situation and the potential challenges as well as opportunities, to identify priorities, establish goals-oriented mechanisms, and help secure a smooth, orderly transition to a new developing mode. With support from the Research Group, *BCAS* presented in its issue 3 (page 156) of this year an authorized translation of a chapter from the *Report*, titled *Carbon Neutrality-oriented Approach to Mid- and Long-term Low-Carbon Transition towards the New Climate Change Goals*, introducing the background against which the goal was proposed, the challenges and opportunities this goal poses for the country, and the overall mentality of the green, low-carbon transition required to meet the target. Now let's cast our attention to another two chapters of the *Report*, which respectively address the building of a policy system and an economic system for a smooth, ordered transition.



Carbon Policy | Building a Policy System of Low-carbon Development towards Carbon Neutrality



The target to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060 has set a strategic guidance for China to accelerate its transformation in development mode and its economic restructuring. This further requires a systematic top-down policy design as well as a sophisticatedly formulated long-term planning. A research group at CAS proposes a framework policy system steering the country onto a low-carbon development track.

Based on a thorough review over how the policies for low-carbon development have evolved in the country, the group analyzes the major existing problems in the current policy system, and gives its assessment on the *status quo*. Starting from this, the group further gives a set of comprehensive suggestions on how to improve the current policy system, and to strengthen multiple institutional policies and institutional mechanism reforms, so as to form a systematic and effective incentive and constraint mechanism.

Please turn to page 198 for the full text.

Carbon Policy | Enhancing an Economic System of Green, Low-carbon and Circular Development

China's goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, set in an ambitious timetable, calls for a profound socio-economic revolution. Since the dawn of the 21st century, China has engaged itself in a widespread, continuous social & economic transformation, and has taken actions to improve and reshape its development mode. The authors review and analyze China's explorations in economic development modes over the past decades, and make clear that green, low-carbon and circular development would be an important future direction. On top of this assessment, the authors further propose a set of suggestions to promote the transition towards a green, low-carbon and circular development mode, including mapping out an action plan, speeding up the formation of a policy and management system, promoting innovations in green technologies, improving incentive mechanisms and encouraging social participations, and strengthening international cooperation in related fields.

For detail, please refer to page 217.

