

Abstract

SESSION 3:

From Vision to Reality: Aligning the Global Agenda with Local Benefits

WORKSHOP 3.3:

Blue Economy Development: Where are we now? Where are we headed?

Development of Ocean Economy in China



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The definition of ocean or marine economy in China is the summation of various industries that develop, utilize, and protect the ocean, and the activities related to them. For the last three decades, the marine economy has developed very fast. In 2003, the State Department issued "The National Marine Economic Development Plan", and for the first time proposed the objective that the marine industry should account for 5% of domestic gross domestic product (GDP) by 2010. In 2008, the State Council approved the "National Marine Development Plan", and stressed to: (a) strengthen the regulation and control, guidance and services of the development of marine economy, (b) improve the quality of marine economic growth, (c) enlarge the marine economy scale, (d) optimize the layout of the marine industries, (e) speed up the marine economic growth pattern, (f) develop marine recycling economy, (g) raise the contribution rate of the ocean economy to the national economy, (h) re-position the marine-related work, and (i) shift its focus to marine economic services.

Since 2006, the regional plans for coastal cities have been upgraded as national strategy. At the beginning of 12th Five-year Plan, Shandong, Zhejiang, Guangdong, Fujian, Tianjin were selected as the pilot province/city for economic development.

During the 11th Five-Year Plan, the average annual marine economic growth is 13.5%. Marine GDP or gross ocean product (GOP) in 2010 was nearly 4 trillion Yuan, and in 2014, the total GOP was close to 6 trillion Yuan, with ratio of 9.4% to national GDP. The sea-related employment in 2014 reached 35.5 million.

The development plans in 11 coastal provinces and cities had been upgraded as the National Strategy, and the new pattern of eastern coastal development strategy was formed basically. Emerging marine industries quickly started. There was breakthrough in the construction of major marine infrastructure projects. International standing and influence of China marine industry continuously increases. In the near future, China will promote marine economy of high quality, in consideration of integrated land and sea management, adjusting structure and optimizing development, ecological priority, and green development, driven by scientific and technological innovations, and open mind with international awareness.



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Setting the Sustainable Development Agenda for the Seas of East Asia beyond 2015

About Wen Quan:

Wen Quan is currently a Chief Scientist and a Research Professor working in the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) Key Lab of Coastal Ecosystem and Environment Research in National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center of China. His job duties include researching on the marine environmental protection, ecosystem conservation, ecosystem-based management, development planning of marine science and technology, etc. His other current and previous responsibilities include being a Project Coordinator of the GEF/FAO/SOA Project on Demonstration of Estuarine Biodiversity Conservation, Restoration and Protected Area Networking in China (2013-2017); the Chairperson of the National Expert Committee, PEMSEA Project Phase III China Program (2010-2013); National Technical Advisor, UNDP/GEF/SOA Project on Biodiversity Management in Coastal Area of South China Sea (2006-2011); and Chairperson, Regional Working Group for Pollution Component of UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project (2005-2010).

Wen Quan graduated from Chemistry Department of Jilin University in Changchun City of China in 1982, with B.S. degree majoring in Inorganic Chemistry.