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Problems and Solutions That the Environmental Governance of Our Country Is Facing Under the New Norm

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Abstract

Chinese government has proposed several new ways and demands of establishing and protecting the environment, in order to promote the ecological environment governance, under the leadership of Xi Jinping in the context of better development of all the Chinese people and the whole nation. We point out the difficulties faced, analyze the reasons for that and provide the solutions to it, when our state tried to governance the environment in the characteristics of stages. It provided lots of practical significance while contributing to help develop the environmental governance and the modernization of governance capacity.

Key words: New normal state; The ecological environment governance; Countermeasure research

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INTRODUCTION

The year 2015 is the shift period of the speed of development of China, the throes period of restructuring and the digestive period, which are the triple keys during the whole time. To adjust to the new normal state, to solve the problems that faced while governance current ecological environment, to continue developing the national ecological environment governance system and

to modernize the capability of governance is the main trend of the sustainable development of the world and the practical request of the transformation and development of China. Meanwhile, it also plays an important role in the realization of the Chinese's national dream, the main content of building new time of ecological civilization, the new normal state and the beautiful China. Since the eighteenth meeting of the Communist Party of Chinese, Chinese government has proposed several new ways and demands of establishing and protecting the environment, in order to promote the ecological environment governance, under the leadership of Xi Jinping in the context of better development of all the Chinese people and the whole nation.

1. THE DEMANDS TO ECOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT GOVERNANCE FROM THE NEW NORMAL STATE

During the 2014 APEC meeting, General Secretary Xi Jinping gave a comprehensive description of new Chinese economical normal state, pointing out that the three character of new Chinese economic normal state are the adjustment of speed, structure and motive power, which means turn the speed from high to mid-high, adjust economical structure from tradition to modern, transform drive from key elements and investment to creation. The construction of ecological civilization and protection of environment are going to be in the new normal state, under such circumstances.

1.1 The 18th National Congress of the CPC Has Brought Civilization Construction Into the "Five in One" Overall Strategic Layout

It was the first time that the National Congress of CPC spent a whole section discussing "Ecological Civilization". It set an overall deployment to strengthen the construction of ecological civilization in the new

normal state. To solve problems like optimizing land space and developing pattern, promoting resource conservation, increasing the intensity of protecting the biology system and environment, to strengthen the construction of ecological civilization, and so on, a policy called “promote the green development, recyclable development and low carbon development”. It helps accelerate the construction of resource-conserving society, a eco-friendly society, and helps the whole society with development, wealth, ecological construction, also with the organization and theory foundations of continuing to strengthen the ability of sustainable development. Such as the report of the 18th National Congress of CPC pointed that “insist prevention and governance to solve the main harms to public health, intensify the governance of water, air, soil, etc.” “take measures to major repairing project, enhance the production ability of ecological products, continue the governance of desertification, rocky desertification, soil and water loss, enhance the area of lakes, forest, wetland, protect the diversity of species of animals.

1.2 The Party’s Third Plenary Session of Eighteen Has Provided a System Guarantee for “the Construction of Ecological Civilization”

The construction of ecological civilization has become the highlight during the party’s Third Plenary Session of eighteen, which shows the great solicitude for the fundamental and long-term interests of people in China and the determination of the construction of ecological civilization from Xi Jinping, who is known as the core of the CPC. The party’s Third Plenary Session of eighteen continued with comprehensively deepening the “Five in One” strategic layout, laying out “the constructing of ecological civilization” and politic, economic, society, construction of civilization together (Xi, 2014), and put “surrounding constructing beautiful China, deepening the reform of ecological civilization, accelerate the establishment of ecological civilization system” uniformly, along with the other five “surrounding tightly”, established the position of the construction of ecological civilization institution in the whole deployment of overall deeper reform, came up with a systemic and complete institutional system of ecological civilization, protecting the environment with institution, which is the only way that must be passed to achieve the goal of the beautiful China. In addition, for the first time, the party’s Third Plenary Session of eighteen also wrote the natural resources property right system into the documents of the party, along with others. This move continued enriching and developing the connotation of “ecological civilization”, on the basis of the eighteenth meeting’s report.

1.3 The Party’s Fourth Plenary Session of Eighteen Provided Legal Support for “the Construction of Ecological Civilization”

The CPC’s Fourth Plenary Session of eighteen discussed and passed the *Decision Made by the CPC Central*

Committee on Promoting a Number of Major Issues of Governing the Country According to Law, pointing out clearly that,

to protect the environment with strict legal system, accelerate the establishment of legal system of ecological civilization, constraint development effectively, promotes green development, cycle development and low carbon development, strengthen legal liability environmental protection of producer, improve the cost of illegal greatly. Establish a perfect legal system of property right of natural resources, perfect the legal system of the protection of land development, formulate laws and regulation that improve the ecological compensation, soil, water, prevention and control of atmospheric pollution, and marine ecological environment protection, promote the construction of ecological civilization (Hu, 2012)

pointed out that to protect the environment with strict legal system, accelerate the establishment of legal system of ecological civilization, constraint development effectively, promotes green development, cycle development and low carbon development, strengthen legal liability environmental protection of producer, improve the cost of illegal greatly, and so on, provided strong legal support for “the construction of ecological civilization”.

From where the 18th national congress of the CPC put “the construction of ecological civilization” into the Chinese socialism “Five In One” overall layout, came up with the interpretation and aim, to where The party’s Forth Plenary Session of eighteen put forward the main task of “The reform of ecological civilization”, and continued, to where The party’s Forth Plenary Session of eighteen put forward the task of building, the task of reform and the task of law of ecological civilization, showed the strong will and determination of strengthening the construction of ecological civilization, lead the direction of the way of strengthening environmental protection, construction of the beautiful China, toward a new era of ecological civilization.

2. PROBLEMS OF THE ECOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT GOVERNANCE FACED UNDER NEW NORMAL STATE

Environment in many areas in China has been improved during recent years, after long-term efforts of the whole society. Generally speaking, great achievement has been made in environmental protection and ecological construction of our country, however, the trend of the overall deterioration of the ecological environment has not fundamentally reversed, and task remains arduous.

2.1 The Carrying Capacity of Resources and Environment Is Under High Pressure

Under new normal state, the Chinese government is doing better and better in governing the environment, but there is still a long way to reach the destination of “Beautiful China” and “Building comparatively well-off society in

the round”. Environmental problems that have existed for a long time haven’t been solved yet, while new problems keep coming out, pollutant emissions in some areas exceed the carrying capacity of resources and environment. The environment problems can be really serious. On the other hand, the phenomenal of loss of water and soil, function of soil serving decrease, desert area is getting bigger, while the square of forest is decreasing, grassland is degrading, and the diversity of species of animal deceased fast, ocean system is being destroyed. Environmental, water resource is seriously damaged, air pollution is serious, pollutant emissions continue to increase, and natural disasters continued increasing.

In addition, subject to funding, technology and service management system and other aspects is not mature, biogas, solar energy, geothermal energy, wind energy and other new environmental protection energy utilization rate is low at the present, which is quite awkward, the supporting facilities are not perfect, leading to the new energy industry is generally a lower performance.

2.2 The Traditional Mode of Economic Growth Is Facing High Risk Period

Economic of China has changed greatly since the Reform and Open, economic aggregate is at the second largest in the world, meanwhile we also paid a lot, just like most countries in the world, traditional industry create great wealth while damaging our environment seriously at the same time. As Xi Jinping says, “Environmental, we owe too much, and we will have to pay much more than this unless we start to take measures to protect the environment.” Economic development can’t live with environmental protection together, as industrialization and urbanization are getting faster and faster, ecological environment is under heavy pressure. Most countries in China didn’t do a good job in keeping the balance between economic development and environmental protection for now; they are still in the old way of using resource and environmental damage to exchange economic development, causing serious problems between resource and environment. Wang Jinnan, engineer of environmental protection administration, analyzed,

During the next five to ten years, industrialization feature of industrial structure is still clearly. Even though tertiary industry’s value added percent are increasing, urbanization speed is faster and tertiary industry is developing fast as well, and the new pollution problems that come along is above suspect.

2.3 Social Environment’s Appeal Is at the State of Upsurge

According to Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, demand of human race is separated into 5 levels. Level one, physiological needs. Level two, security needs. Level three, interchange needs. Level four, esteem needs. And level five, self-worth achievement needs. This explains under the new normal state, there are more and more

people who care about the environment protection, which has become the biggest problem among them. What people would most like to see is to improve the quality of the environment. Clean water, safe food, clear air, these used to be around us, however, now, are not seen everyday. Our country developed fast for more than 30 years, we have owed too much environment protection, and it caused worse and worse environment, which brings huge danger. Relevant research shows that haze and fog days in January 2013 resulted in death of 1,416 people in cities of Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Xi’an. People own 0.6-0.7 year shorter average life span who live in northern cities than the ones live in southern cities. Information opened on environmental protection administration shows that more than 470 abrupt environment affairs were handled by environmental protection administrations in 2014, and more numbers of ecological environment class bills were proposed. Meanwhile, numbers of environmental reporting cases are increasing at the speed of 30% each year, so do mass incidents caused by environmental problems. This has become a huge threat to social stability.

3. ANALYSIS OF THE REASONS OF DIFFICULTIES OF GOVERNING ECOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT UNDER NEW NORMAL STATE

On the surface, difficulties we met of governing ecological environment is the result of conflict between people racing and nature, is the direct or indirect result of production activities from man, but from this view we can also see that ecological environment problem doesn’t only happen between man and nature, but also involves the lack of ecological environment system, and ecological environment protection law is not sound, etc..

3.1 The Lack of Ecological Environment System, and Ecological Environment Protection Law Is Not Sound

Law system is an important guarantee to build ecological environment protection, and also the fundamental guarantee to achieve healthy development of the ecological environmental protection career. To achieve the goal of building ecological environment protection, we must use the system to work, and use the laws to restrain. Without system and laws, it will be very hard to achieve the goal of building ecological environment protection, however advanced the concept is. Our country’s ecology is the main administrative management measures on environmental protection measures, for now, although measures have been taken on economic, lack of laws, systems, and political governance, implementation and carry out the situation is rather bad, even the stricter the governance is, the worse the pollution is. According to incomplete

statistics, China has formulated 6 environment laws, 10 related resource laws and more than 30 environmental protection laws and regulations, and also enacted over 90 environmental protection regulations, made 427 states environmental protection standards, and even 1,020 local protection laws. However, the system is still incomplete, there are also problems on formulating and performing of environmental laws. Governing environment needs to be with ecology system's guarantee and environmental laws constrain. It's necessary to formulate an overall ecological environmental management and governance system law to build a socialist country with "economic development, flourishing politics, cultural prosperity, good ecological environment and people's happiness".

3.2 Damage From the Traditional Mode of Economic Growth to the Ecological Environment

The industrialization of our country official started in 1950s, to achieve the goal of catching up with western countries, our government started the blind pursuit of development speed of industrialization, then we began to govern after we polluted, and it caused so many problems such as air, soil and water. The ecological environment has never been polluted like this since reform and opening-up, due to the acceleration of the process of industrialization and city. On one hand, China's industrial structure is dominated by heavy industry, which needs lots of mineral resource as raw materials; this will inevitably lead to excessive consumption of natural resources, worsening ecological damage, serious pollution of the ecological environment. On the other hand, as the acceleration the process of industrialization, so is the processes of the city, especially recent years, China's urbanization has entered a period of rapid growth, the urban population increased from 0.45906 billion in 2000 to 0.66978 billion in 2010, the urbanization rate increased from 36.22% to 49.95%. Rapid advance of the process of urbanization, the ecological environment has produced a series of related issues, such as a large number of occupation of agricultural land, urban traffic congestion, urban environmental pollution, urban planning and backward management, all above are increasing environmental pollution and destruction.

3.3 The Consciousness of Ecological Environmental Protection of Citizens Is Weak

Ecological environmental consciousness of citizens is the basic concept to understand the social existence and development, from the overall optimization of human and ecological environment perspective, It is the ethics concept for a citizen to show respect to the nature, it also the value concept for human race to live with nature. Citizen ecological consciousness is an important symbol to measure a country or a nation's civilization (Xi, 2014). Objectively speaking, ecological environment concept of citizens in China is still weak, which is shown mainly by, firstly, there is big difference between the request for

a good ecological environment and the consciousness of ecological environmental protection, which means citizens longing for good ecological environment so strong, however, they don't pay little attention to ecological environment that is not close to themselves, and don't even take norms of be have or to protect the ecological environment. Secondly, some of us still hold the ecological idea of "Anthropocentrism", they always treat the natural environment with the mentality of anthropocentrism, and they are lack of value rationality of love nature and love life, this makes them hardly ever reflect on their behavior from the perspective of ecological balance, ecological protection, and waste a lot of natural resources.

Thirdly, citizen's ecological science literacy and awareness of Environmental Protection Science are so weak, for years our education system rendering light facts, people generally lack of basic scientific literacy, understanding about some related to ecological environment, theoretical knowledge and scientific knowledge is not deep enough.

4. NEW MEASURES TAKEN UNDER NEW NORMAL STATE TO GOVERN ECOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

It's a long and complicated system processes to govern the ecological environment, since the eighteenth meeting of the Communist Party of Chinese, Xi Jinping, the leader of the country has come up with a series of new ideas, new judgments and new requirements, as the core of central leaders. China's economic society has been in the new normal state, there will be new ideas and new measures in the ecological civilization construction and environmental protection, so as to promote the national environment management system and the modernization of governance capacity, to return the blue sky and ocean, beautiful mountains, the good environment.

4.1 The Establishment of Eco System, Perfecting the Legal System of Ecological Environment Protection

The general secretary, Xi Jinping, emphasized that to strengthen ecological environment protection, to promote system innovation and sound legal system, to fundamentally reverse the trend of deterioration of environmental quality. We can tell from this that only with the best system and rules by law can provide a reliable guarantee, only by deepening the reform of ecological civilization, accelerate the establishment of ecological civilization system, a sound legal system to protect the ecological environment, can the ecological environment be the fundamental governance. Only by improving the ecological environmental protection system and the environmental protection legal system, can the ecological

environment be promoted better from theory to practice.

On April 24th this year, China NPC Standing Committee adopted the revised “environmental protection law”, has been officially implemented in January 1, 2015. The new “environmental protection law” showed provisions of the basic principles and the basic system of protecting the ecological environment, and achieved many breakthroughs in improving supervision system, improve the government responsibility, improve the cost of illegal, promoting public participation, to provide a powerful legal guarantee to promote the construction of ecological civilization, to protect and improve the environment, as the basic law, comprehensive environmental protection field of Chinese. From now on, we need to accelerate the development of the introduction of limited production limit row, seizure, daily penalty, transferred to public security organs, information disclosure and other supporting documents, good public interest litigation, administrative accountability, administrative detention, criminal cases handled work environment coordination and convergence, the newly revised “environmental protection law” the implementation of good. On the other hand, to further enrich the theory system of environmental protection, strengthen environmental protection cooperation and exchanges with international environmental protection organization, learn from advanced legislation experience of other countries, combined with China’s actual conditions and stages of development, establish a series of protective atmosphere, soil and water pollution prevention and marine ecological protection and other special laws and regulations, improve the environment by laws to protect and promote the construction of ecological civilization further, to promote China’s ecological environment governance system and governance capacity modernization.

Secondly, we will regard deepening the reform of ecological environmental protection as an opportunity to establish the organization system of environmental protection strict supervision of all emissions, which are organizational guarantee to promote the construction of ecological civilization. To establish the target system, assessment and incentive mechanism that reflects the requirements of ecological civilization, such as promoting the establishment of natural resources balance sheet, the natural resource assets outgoing audit, the establishment of ecological damage liability lifelong accountability system, adhere to the “polluter pays” principle, or the establishment of the reward system combined with the ecological environment governance and performance evaluation, putting the ecological environment protection and the corresponding control work into the performance appraisal scope etc..

The ecological environment protection in all aspects of the system will get more scientific, more perfect, to achieve the goal of the ecological environment governance institutionalized, standardized procedures, the maximum

increase of ecological assets, reduce environmental liabilities through a series of reform and practice. Let the overdraft resource environment rest and get healthier, while expanding the green natural space such as forest, lakes, wetlands, leaving the nature more space for self-reparation.

4.2 Promote the Adjustment of Economic Structure; Change the Mode of Economic Development

It’s of great urgency to accelerate the strategic adjustment of the economic structure, promote economic restructuring and upgrading under the new normal state. General Secretary Xi pointed out that to analyze environmental problems with the concept of ecological civilization perspective, the essence of it is the problem of economic structure, production mode and consumption pattern. His words expounded profoundly the great importance of harmonious relationship between the relations of production and the ecological environment, the protection of the ecological environment is to protect productivity, improve the ecological environment is the development of productive forces, pointed out that the development of economy under the new normal way, we will not and cannot afford the way of “treatment after pollution”, started from the whole process of production, distribution, reproduction, circulation and consumption, handle the relationship between economic development and environmental protection correctly, develop and improve the environmental economic policies, build the formation of long-term environment protection mechanism that both incentive and constraint, explore the new way of environmental protection, which is on the Marx’s theory of productive innovation and development.

In order to realize the clean water, beautiful mountains, blue sky all the time, it will be necessary to get rid of “only on the GDP”, we can’t simply judge by comparing GDP growth rates, and what we need to do is to change the extensive mode of economic growth, overcome the rusty thoughts of the opposition between economic growth and environment protection, change industrial structure and resource utilization that are not reasonable. Adjusting and optimizing structure must be combined with strengthening innovation driven and protecting the ecological environment together, with greater strength, more broad vision, more practical initiatives, we will promote extensive transformation and upgrading of enterprises, let market and government play better as “invisible hand” and “visible hand”. To improve the quality of the environment as the basic goal, develop a more scientific emission reduction strategy, vigorously develop the circular economy and low carbon economy and green industry with the support of science and technology and productivity, try to realize the ecological construction and economic development of mutual promotion and win-win. At the same time, hold the concept of ecological

red line, be strict to optimization resource structure, let the overdraft of resources and environment recuperate and build up strength gradually, expand forest, lakes, wetlands and other green space, enhance the ability of water conservation and environmental capacity, based on ecological resources efficiency. For conventional pollutants and emerging pollutants emission reduction, we must take measures co-ordinate the planning, suit local conditions, formulate routes and methods of scientific emission reduction technology and come up with a comprehensive solution to the problem of pollution.

4.3 Focus on Solving Problems That Environmental Governance Issues That Are Related to the Welfare of the People

To protect and improve people's livelihood is the starting point and end point of all the work. To adapt to the new normal is to earnestly solve the ecological environmental problem that people all focus on. See the construction of the beautiful China as our goal, and solve the specific problems related to the vital interests of the people, try our best to prevent and control atmosphere, water, soil pollution, improve the quality of the environment gradually. Let our people see the change, get the benefit, and let people's sense of happiness grow with each passing day, let the people live with more income, live more comfortable, live protected life by more security, live in peace with more assured, live a life with more satisfactory. Accelerate economic transformation and upgrading, develop ecological economy, pay attention to the improvement of the ecological environment improvement. Let people live in a more comfortable environment, travel more convenient, drink more clean water, eat more clean and safe food, breathe more fresh air. Urgency and arduousness of environmental pollution control and ecological protection must be awarded of. We also need to understand the necessity and importance of strengthening the construction of ecological civilization clearly. Be responsible to the people and their future

generations. Create a good living environment for the people, let them feel happiness. In addition, information disclosure and other supporting work must be done, and publish the status of ecological environment regularly, mobilize the enthusiasm of the people fully to get involved in the protection of the ecological environment, strengthen publicity and education on environment protection consciousness of citizens, let people participate the ranks in environmental governance and supervision.

CONCLUSION

Under the new normal state, the clarion call of ecological environmental governance in China has been sounded. Facing the new normal, we should use new ideas to strengthen the governance of the ecological environment. Transform ecological capital into productive capital; find a new way to the protection of the ecological environment, to promote the development of productive forces. Improve system and mechanism, laws and regulations, of the protection of the ecological environment continuously. Realize the program science, system and standard of the ecological environment governance. Let the people to realize the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the blue sky and white clouds, green mountains and rivers.

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