



ITALIA
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Top Italian and Chinese Experts Gather at the Expo, Opening a Dialogue in Sustainable Development Cooperation

A Week of International Workshops on “Greening the Future” Launched at the Italian Pavilion

Shanghai, September 14, 2010 - From September 13 to 19, the Italian Pavilion will launch a series of international workshops on “Greening the Future”, focusing on green construction and design, and sustainable development. During the week, the Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea of the Italian Republic and the Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Italian Republic will host a series of seminars with the collaboration of government bodies and academic associations, such as the Ministry of Finance of China, the Ministry of Science and Technology of China, the Ministry of Environment of China and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, with the aim of discussing cutting-edge technologies for eco-efficient building and best practices on climate change adaption, in addition to seeking new opportunities for Sino-Italian cooperation on sustainable development.

“The Shanghai Expo, with its focus on creating better urban environments for the future, provides the perfect platform for discussions on green design, architecture and lifestyles,” said Mr. Beniamino Quintieri, the Commissioner General of Italy for the Shanghai World Expo 2010. “We also recognise that sustainable cities cannot be achieved in isolation, and we are pleased and excited by the collaboration and exchanges between the governments, industries and academia of Italy and China taking place during this week’s events.”

The events are part of the Sino-Italian Cooperation Programme on Environmental Protection, an international model of partnership that leverages public and private resources to address key solutions for sustainable development. The cooperation was established in the late 1990s when China’s escalating pollution levels urged the country to draft its own domestic road map for environmental protection.

At present, more than 200 projects have been implemented as part of the programme, covering areas such as environmental monitoring and management, natural resource protection and conservation, environmental protection in China’s poorest areas, energy efficiency and renewable energy development, sustainable urban planning and low-emission transportation systems and technologies. The total value of ongoing and developed projects is \$438 million. Coupled with financing earmarked for future projects, investments are estimated to total \$1.15 billion.

Over the past 10 years, the Italian Ministry for the Environment has provided some \$230 million to co-finance projects aimed at benefitting China’s development and the diffusion of sustainable and low-carbon technologies, according to Corrado Clini, general director of the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea.

“Green Week” will include a set of seminars and workshops on sustainable architecture and design, exploring the central role played by eco-efficient materials and construction. The seminars will also dive into the issue of delivering environmentally, socially and economically viable buildings. Highlighted activities are below:

September 13: Seminar on “Management of Protected Areas and Technology for Biodiversity Protection”

Institutions dealing with natural reserves management, schools investigating eco-systems, and companies collecting environmental data from both Italy and China will have panel discussions

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focusing on the themes of “The Role of Protected Areas for Sustainable Development,” “Natural Reserves and National Parks: Technologies and Know-how,” “Marine Ecosystems: Threats and Conservation.”

This seminar is jointly run by the Embassy of Italy in China, the Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Italian Republic and the Finance Department of the Ministry of Finance of China. Government officials from the two countries will also be present and will make addresses at the seminar.

September 14: International Workshop on “Innovation & Eco-efficiency in the Construction”

Jointly held by the Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea of the Italian Republic and the Ministry of Science and Technology of China, this workshop will pay close attention to the themes of “Towards Sustainable Buildings: the Technologies,” “The Sustainable Architecture in the Sino Italian Cooperation” and “Sustainable Architecture at the Expo 2010.” Beniamino Quintieri, the Commissioner General of Italy for the Shanghai World Expo 2010 and Han Aixing, Director General of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Rural Development of China, will deliver opening speeches at the workshop.

Scholars from the Polytechnic of Milan of Italy, Tsinghua University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Tongji University will participate in the workshop, together with attendees from Italian architecture firms. Furthermore, Giampaolo Imbrighi, designer of the Italian Pavilion and Benedetta Tagliabue, designer of the Spanish Pavilion will also share their insights into the sustainable buildings at the Expo.

September 15: Seminar on “The Development Trends in China and Italy: Case Study Analyzed by OECD on Guangdong Province and the Venice Region”

This seminar is co-hosted by the Economic Development and Coordination Bureau of Italy’s Ministry of Economic Development and the Expo Committee of Venice, with the collaboration of the Program of Italian-Sino Provincial Cooperation under Italy’s Foreign Ministry and the Commission of Italy for the Shanghai World Expo 2010. This seminar is aimed at promoting dialogues between Guangdong Province and the Venice Region, to enhance regional cooperation between Italy and China, as well as to strengthen the relations within international organizations.

The seminar will revolve around an analysis of Guangdong Province and the metropolitan area of Venice, both of which are the subject of the Organization for the Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)’s study. The two regions have been dedicated to exploring new strategies to address the problems which occur during sustainable development and globalization. Meanwhile, the seminar will also discuss how Chinese and Italian government bodies can carry out more cooperation based on the development strategies put forward by the OECD.

September 16: International Workshop on “Adaption to Climate Change in Coastal Zones of the Mediterranean and China”

The workshop is co-hosted by the Ministry of Environment of Italy, the Ministry of Environment of China, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Tsinghua University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Euro Mediterranean Center for Climate Change and the National Development and Reform Commission of China. Discussions will be carried out about “Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change” and “The Adaptation Measures in the Coastal Zones: the Case of Venice,” opening a multi-dimension dialogue through keynote speeches, a panel discussion and a case study. Su Wei, Director General of Climate Change, National Development and Reform Commission of China and Corrado Clini, Director General of the Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea of the Italian Republic, will attend and make addresses at the workshop.



September 18: International Workshop on “Working Together toward the Sustainable Development of China and Italy; Seven Years of the Joint Program in Education and Training”

Hosted by Venice International University, this program is aimed at providing training to civil servants in Italy and China and sharing working experience between the two countries to enhance talent exchange. This cooperative program has been successfully held 6 times. Therefore, it is of extraordinary significance to hold it again during the World Expo Shanghai.

Umberto Vattani, President of Venice International University, Wang Weizhong, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Science and Technology of China, Corrado Clini, Director General of the Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea of the Italian Republic and Wang Weizhong, Vice Minister of Ministry of Science and Technology of China, will respectively make speeches. Experts and scholars from the University of Turin and the Shanghai Environmental Protection Bureau will offer training on the spot, followed by a roundtable discussion attended by experts from both Italian and Chinese prestigious universities, including Tsinghua University, Tongji University, the Polytechnic of Turin and Venice International University.

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