

China Is Facing Severe Environmental Problems

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Environmental problems have gained widespread concern and publicity in both the local and Chinese media.

CCTV "News 1+1" reported on January 15, most parts of the country in the eastern was suffering from severe haze , and up to 0:00 on the 14th, the detect data were more than 300 in part of the monitoring sites in 33 cities among 74 monitoring cities.

This means that the air in these cities is now seriously polluted. In fact, 15 out of the 20 most polluted cities in the world are now in China.

In March this year, more than 13,000 dead pigs were found in the Shanghai Huangpu River upstream waters. The sick and dead pigs were simply tossed into rivers in China. Such rivers are a source of drinking water for many of its urban residents.

The improvement and implementation of laws and policies is the key to environmental issues. Since January this year, Beijing and other cities are faced with serious air pollution. In fact, many of the world's developed countries have experienced severe air pollution.

Los Angeles was called "Fog City" due to its serious pollution. And photochemical smog pollution, one of "the world's eight major pollution incidents" occurred last century.

Since then, Los Angeles, and the entire Southern California had

devoted to air treatment for nearly 70 years. Today, the PM_{2.5} of Los Angeles is 35 micrograms per day on average, which is quite low.

When interviewed with the Beijing News reporter on 6th February this year, the deputy director of Southern California Air Quality Management District said that the control of air pollution is not only legislation, but more importantly, the continuous improvement solutions for specific issues, monitoring and implementation of programmes.

Singapore has one of the highest population densities in the world and yet it is common to see blue skies practically everyday and its PM is always below 50. The number of cars per capita in Singapore is probably the same as Beijing.

Seen from other countries' experience in environmental governance, environmental problems were not insurmountable. Environmental problems can be solved through the establishment of rational laws and policies and effective implement solutions. Current laws relating to environmental protection in China are, Environmental Protection Law of the People's Republic of China, Marine Environmental Protection Law of the People's Republic of China, Water Pollution Prevention Law of the People's Republic of China and the People's Republic of China Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act, as well as some policies and regulations. However, there are still many defects in relevant laws and regulations about liability system. Such as some of the provisions only

prohibit a polluting behavior but leave out the responsibility of the violation of the provisions, which lead to the difficulty in implementation of the regulations and policies.

Therefore, China should learn from other countries' successful experience in environmental governance, perfect environmental protection laws and regulations, develop solutions and implement policies and regulations effectively. Systematic and long-term efforts are needed in solving environmental problems.

When talking about the issue of environmental pollution at the press conference on March 17 , Prime Minister Li Keqiang pointed out that , "First, we can no longer owe the new account, including raising the threshold of environmental protection. Second, we should pay the old debts quickly, including the elimination of backward production capacity, etc. The government should enforce the law with an iron hand and apportion blame with a poker face. "

At the same time, public information, public scrutiny and participation are also essential for the solution of environmental problems. Premier Li Keqiang said, "no matter the status of pollution, or food issues, or the effects of governance and disposal , should be open and transparent, so that the public, the media can supervise fully and effectively. This is also the formation of a Forced Mechanism to harden the responsibility of corporations and the government. It can also enhance people's own

consciousness of self-protection. Since we want to breathe the same air, it is necessary to struggle together. Each of us shall do our bit. "

President Xi Jinping delivered a speech at the closing session of the Twelfth National People's Congress meeting, and put forward the great rejuvenation and "Chinese dream". The realization of the Chinese dream, the achievement of national prosperity and revitalization, the fulfillment of the happiness of the people, are inseparable from the protection and restoration of the environment.

At the media debut in his new position on 17 March, Li Keqiang said maintaining economic growth, improving people's livelihood and safeguarding social justice are the government's three main tasks. He also proposed requirements for the solution of environmental problems. We believe that the environment will surely be improved and resolved with the joint efforts of the party, the country and the people.