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The Clean Development Mechanism in China

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The Kyoto Protocol has systematized international cooperation on carbon emission in a profound way since its adaptation in 1997 Kyoto, Japan. The Clean Development Mechanism was fostered in the Kyoto Protocol as one main mechanism out of three (CDM, Carbon Trading and Joint Implement). CDM mainly worked in the form of cooperation between developing and developed countries, through which developed countries can fulfill their goal of carbon emission reduction in units by assisting developing ones.

Supported by official documents, news, commentaries and success or failed experiences, we make an in-depth research into this subject. In this paper we will discuss about the principle and evolution of The Kyoto mechanisms, especially the CDM. We will summarize and analyze the present situation of the application of CDM in China as a developing country. We see that some of the problems are in devious procedures and standards for verifications, the lack of acknowledgments and experiences, etc. We also used East Asia as an example of regional cooperation of China, which can be inspiring when applied in a larger scale.

Besides, now that the first commitment period of Kyoto Protocol is to end, we will also look at Copenhagen 2009 and Durban 2011 global conferences, which were expected to be last conferences before the second commitment period. The conflicts and agreements in the process of the conferences also reflect the current attitude towards cooperation and individual development of various countries especially China and some developed countries, and give clue to how the future trend of such kind of cooperation may be.

Based on all these analysis, we may yield a good comprehension of the current state in China, problems and possible solutions.

In conclusion, many problems exist in CDM because of its heavy reliance on in-depth cooperation and trust between countries and furthermore the complicated present global situation. Nonetheless, it is indeed a worthless mechanism, especially in China, that will not only fulfill short-term goals but also breed long-term development when successfully utilized.