

Ecological Economics and Ecological Civilization International Forum Successfully Held in the School of Economics at Peking University

The Ecological Economics and Ecological Civilization International Forum hosted by the School of Economics at Peking University was held successfully in the lecture hall 603, the School of Economics, Peking University on November 15th, 2019. Over 200 experts and scholars from institutes and colleges of the USA, Australia, the Great Britain, Italy, Thailand, Japan, Canada, Finland, Russia and other nations alongside with those from the universities including Peking University, Tsinghua University and Chinese Academy of Social Sciences which are located in China. The forum was designed to provide a platform for the scholars home and abroad to discuss the innovation in ecological economics theory and the essentials in the subject construction, share the achievements in the ecological civilization construction from different countries and explore a clear direction in the theory and practice in the ecological civilization together in order to facilitate the subject progress in the ecological economics in China and contribute to the ecological civilization construction in China.



Group Photo of Several Guests Invited

The opening ceremony was hosted by Professor Qin Xuezheng, Deputy Dean of the School of Economics at Peking University. In his speech, Qin noted that the ecological civilization construction is progressing vigorously for which the theoretical innovation in ecological economics was much needed. Meanwhile more ideas and wisdom from China should be adopted with the exploration and practice for years. After that, Qin introduced the guests who would present keynote speeches in the forum and welcome the attendees warmly.



Qin Xuezheng Hosting the Ceremony

The Opening Speech was given by Dean Dong Zhiyong from the School of Economics at Peking University. Dong warmly welcomed the attendance of the guests on behalf of the school. In his speech, Dong pointed that the year of 2019 was a special milestone in the history of ecological economics because it not only witnessed the 70th birthday of the PRC, but also the 30th birthday of *Ecological Economics* journal. Dong recognized the necessity in the ecological civilization construction in China and stated that the school was willing to stand as a role model in practice and theory to contribute to the accumulation and the transformation in China's ecological civilization. Dong also stressed the importance of the subject of ecological economics to the ecological civilization construction in China. Besides, Dong introduced the history since the School established the emerging subject and cultivated talents for the interdisciplinary subjects, hoped to develop further in the subject with the opportunity of the forum and appealed the elites home and abroad to cooperate while reserving differences to promote the development of ecological economics in China and make contributions to the ecological civilization for China and the world.



Dong Zhiyong on the Speech



The Meeting Venue

Associate Professor Ji Xi from School of Economics at Peking University, the group leader of the Ecological Economics Research Group of School of Economics at Peking University, read the congratulatory letter given by Herman Daly, leading expert in ecological economics from University of Maryland. With the title of An Epochal Change in the Pattern of Scarcity, Daly gave his introductory comments on the development of ecological economics and the construction of ecological civilization in China. He thought that there was an enormous change in the basic pattern of scarcity historically, in which the fact natural capital and resources of the biosphere were superabundant, and manmade capital and labor were the limiting factors in production was

reversed to that manmade capital and labor are superabundant, and remaining natural capital has become the limiting factor. The great change matters a lot to ecological economics, to fit in the epochal change, related revisions and innovation in economic theories were realized. He noted that the foundational vision of ecological economics was that the economy was a subsystem of a finite ecosphere that was open to a given throughput of solar energy, but closed to materials. In thus these and other basic scientific laws were both constraints within which we lived, and the foundation for any technological advance. After WWII, nations entered into the Cold War growth race when the economic growth turned to uneconomic with the faster increase in environmental and social cost so as to reach the limits of itself rather than the limits of the ecology. Daly gave compliments to the official commitment of the Chinese government to "build an ecological civilization" in reconciling the demands of the economy with the limits of the ecosphere. The new mode of scarcity posed challenges to the global security while the equal, sustainable and peaceful ecological economical society could be achieved with the efforts by the practitioners in ecological economics.



Ji Xi Reading the Letter by Herman Daly

Followed by Daly's letter, 5 keynote speeches were given in the first half of the forum hosted by Ji Xi and Professor Zhang Shiqiu, the Deputy Dean of College of Environmental Science and Engineering at Peking University.

Professor Yang Weimin, the Vice-President of Economic committee of the CPPCC and Dean of China Institute for Development Planning at Tsinghua University, shared his consideration on the ecological civilization construction in the perspective of strategical space development. Yang Weimin pointed out that high-quality and modernized space layout, configuration and structure are needed as well as the high-quality and modernized industries, products and technologies. Space was abstracted in the past economics which should be added to the economic theories of ecological civilizations. Yang explained the concepts of space development and space

coordination and raised his idea that the human-to-human and human-to-environment relationship should be kept well under the bearing capacity of resources and environment. Yang threw light on a new concept Ecological Product apart from agricultural, industrial, service products, in which he thought the fresh air, clean water sources and livable environments should be included. In space development, Yang proposed his ideas in three strategical layouts including Two Vertical One Horizontal urbanization strategical layout, Seven Areas Thirteen Zones agriculture strategical layout and Two Panels Three Zones ecological security strategical layout. In the following, Yang gave a detailed explanation about the land & resources environment of China in space structure, exploitation intention and space planning and put forward the space governance mode in ecological civilization which would benefit the construction and development in China's ecological civilization.



Yang Weimin on the Speech

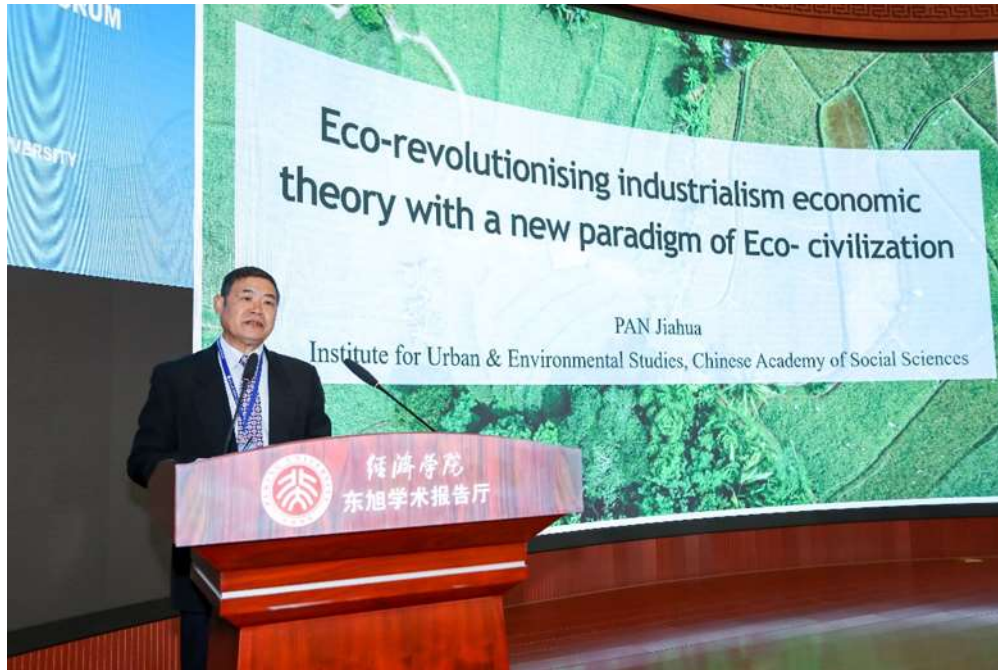
The speech “Ecological Economics in an Ecological Civilization” was given by Robert Costanza, Professor of the Australian National University, the Founder of Ecological Economics and the Founding Editor of *Ecological Economics*, who analyzed the development of ecological economics in the aspect of ecological civilization. Robert stated that Human influence on the earth system is now so large, that a new geologic epoch (the Anthropocene) has begun and we now live in a “Full World”, based on which the theory of ecological civilization could be built. Robert gave his explanation for sustainable wellbeing in the three aspects of Vision, Tools & Analysis and Implementation. In his thinking, the recognition to the world should be changed in vision, systems thinking and modeling should be introduced to tools & analysis and new institutions and strategies should be realized in implementation. Robert thought the economy system and society system were both sub-systems to the environment and the economy system subordinated to the society which was different from the conventional view that all the three systems were independent. He pointed that the earth is facing challenges in several aspects of climate, biodiversity and resources which influenced on the welfare and living qualities of the human-being. We were supposed to

transform the world views and values in the Empty World to the integration of natural capital, human capital, social capital and built capital in the Full World and realize the beneficial interaction between the ecosystem and well-being. Finally, Robert stressed the importance of ecosystem services valuation, and appealed to implementing valuation of ecosystem services based on the three primary goals of efficiency, fairness, and sustainability to realize sustainable and pleasant development.



Robert Costanza on the Speech

Next, Pan Jiahua, Professor of University of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Vice President of China Ecological Civilization Research and Promotion Association, gave his keynote speech with the title Eco-revolutionising Industrialism Economic Theory with a New Paradigm of Eco-civilization. Pan pointed out the dilemma of political economy oriented towards sustainable development goals at first and presented the global understanding and evolution of sustainable development goals from single dimension to 5P integration. When analyzing the dilemma which lied in the political economics towards the sustainable goals, Pan explained the shift in development from traditional industrial civilization to ecological civilization in the aspects of ethical principle, value, social relationship, institutional, objective, energy base, geo-physical limit, driver, production mode and consumption style. Further, Pan revolutionized mainstream theory of economics with the principles of eco-civilization. In his opinion, thinking in ecology was lacking in the mainstream theory of economics which couldn't contribute to the sustainable development and a shift of paradigm towards ecological civilization was needed in which natural values theory, natural productivity theory, environmental well-being theory, ecological baseline theory, life community theory, given priority to natural repair and theory of human community with a shared future should be focused on.



Pan Jiahua on the Speech

Followed by Pan's speech, the Academician of Academy of Social Sciences UK, Professor Sun Laixiang from University of Maryland, discussed the influence taken by the trade on the land & water stress in the perspective of global food trade. With the significant change in global trade patterns and rapid growth in global trade, there was a great change in the globalization-resource use including the changes in global CO₂ emissions, global land use and global water withdrawal. Sun proposed introducing land scarcity (land appropriation index) and water scarcity (water stress index) into the multi-region input-output table. He quantified the national water and net virtual water flows embodied in food trade. The result turned out that the largest net virtual cropland flows were mainly from land-abundant countries to land-scarce countries which supported the Factor Endowment Theory while the largest net virtual crop water flows were mainly from water-scarce countries to more water-abundant countries which didn't support the theory. Thus, Sun pointed that the present market mechanism couldn't reflect the water scarcity.



Sun on His Speech

In Professor Zhu Dajian from Tongji University's thoughts, eco-civilization in China can test and upgrade ecological economics thinking. On the one hand, the eco-civilization practice provides opportunities to test ecological theories in a big scale. On the other hand, the eco-civilization thinking in China helped to upgrade the understanding of ecological economics. Four topics were mainly discussed by Professor Zhu, the first was Development within Limit vs. Growth without Limit, in which he thought the aim of China's green development was to decouple the relationship between the development of economical society and resource & environment consumption. The second part was about the models of transformation to green development. Plan B was designed to the developed countries which already reached economic development now looked for reduce human ecological footprint. Plan C was applied to emerging economy like China which focuses on improving HDI within one planet boundary – The only way out towards Sustainability for All. Topic 3 was about the efficiency improvement and scale control in ecology. In neoclassical economics, the improvement in efficiency was important to realize green growth. While the ecological civilization in China stressed the scale control to facilitate efficiency improvement in a greater scale. Four was about the upgradation in the thinking of ecological economics. The ecological economics popular in the US and Europe in 1980s was the Version 1.0 of Green Development Theory Thinking while the Ecological Civilization in China could trigger the transformation to Version 2.0.



Zhu Dajian on His Speech

After the keynote speeches, the roundtable discussion named Theory and Practice: Mutual Nourishment of Ecological Economics and Ecological Civilization was started, which was hosted by Professor Ping Xinqiao from the School of Economics at Peking University and Professor Wang Hua from China Renmin University. Chinese experts including Professor Zhang Shiqiu, Professor Li Zhou, Vice President of China Ecological Economics Society, Professor Xu Jintao, Deputy Dean of National School of Development at Peking University and Professor Chen Bin from Beijing Normal University alongside with the foreign guests including Professor Kozo Mayumi from University of Tokushima, Professor Tommaso Luzzati from University of Pisa and Professor Bharat Dahiya, the Director of Research Center for Integrated Sustainable Development at Thammasat University attended the roundtable discussion. A deep discussion was conducted on the application and co-development in the ecological economics and China's ecological civilization.

The heated discussion was held among the experts and scholars focused on the problems such as how to integrate and co-develop the ecological economics theory and China's ecological civilization construction. Five main topics were concerned in the discussion, including the abstraction of the keywords in ecological civilization, opportunities and challenges lied in China's ecological civilization construction towards ecological economics, how ecological economics played a better role in the ecological civilization, successful examples applied to the practice of ecological civilization with the theories of ecological economics in countries and how to realize the beneficial interaction and co-development in ecological economics and ecological civilization in the future. The guests raised in-depth and constructive discussions towards those topics and provided innovative ideas and thinking on how to promote the beneficial interaction and complementation between ecological economics and ecological civilization.



The Roundtable Discussion



Hosts and Guests on the Discussion

Three parallel forums were held in the School of Economics which mainly focused on the Theoretical Innovations in Ecological Economics, the Institutionalization of Ecological

Economics and Exploring Pathways to an Ecological Civilization. Associate Professor Ida Kubiszewski from the Australian National University, Professor Zhang Bo from China University of Mining and Technology and researcher Hou Lingling from Peking University gave overview reports in the parallel forums.



Overview Reports of the Parallel Forums

After the parallel forums, four keynote speeches were continued in the host of Professor Zhou

Jianbo from School of Economics at Peking University and Professor Tommaso Luzzati. The first speech South-South Cooperation Determines Future Global Climate Change Mitigation was given by the Academician of Academy of Social Sciences UK, Professor Guan Dabo from Tsinghua University. In his report, Guan analyzed the most up-to-date energy, emission and socioeconomic accounting inventories in China, studied the change characteristics in China's emission paths in the past 20 years and proposed the idea that the CO₂ emissions in Chinese cities which transformed was based on consumption. And he pointed out that the layout of low-carbon cities in different industrialization stages could change as a result of consumption. Finally, he summarized the present situation of South-South emission trade and put forward Triangular Trade in order to solve the climate change problem.



Guan on the Speech

President-elect of International Society for Ecological Economics, Professor Joshua Farley from University of Vermont gave his speech named Corporation to Build an Ecological Civilization via video chat. In Farley's opinion, the economy itself is an evolving system which could influence the ecological environment system when it couldn't adapt to the great changes. The society dilemma lies the fact that high cost in cooperation encouraged people to work individually. In the perspective of cooperation evolution, cultivating disciplined culture regulations could promote the sense of cooperation and altruism. Farley also pointed out four elements to facilitate cooperation including strengthening reciprocal relationship, building collective recognition, facing common challenges and possessing common property & trust. He compared cooperation to the money in the bank which would benefit more in the future.

President of Ningbo University, Professor Shen Manhong gave his speech with the title Future Prospects in Green Development. He summarized the relationship between the economic development and the environment and explained the development ideas in the new epoch in three

aspects of green development including concept, valuation and strategic direction. He pointed out that although tremendous achievements were realized in green construction at present, the three paradox in water, air and agriculture are still sharp to the public. The future directions in green development should be taken in the multi-fields including the popularization of ecological civilization, domination of ecological industries, population of ecological consumption, economization of ecological resources, spectacularization of ecological environments and characterization of ecological cities & villages.



Shen on His Speech

The last speech was given by Professor Zhang Zheng from the School of Economics at Peking University. Professor Zhang stated that not only technical manners and mechanism construction but also changes in habitual and consuming habits should be paid attention to solving the ecological & environmental problems. He thought under the pressure of economic slump and ecological environment, related environment compensation system and large-scale reparation system in environment should be published as soon as possible to solve both of the problems. Apart from this, good habits should be encouraged in enterprises and the society and the balance sheet & in-out sheet should be introduced in environmental property to alleviate the influence of currency in economic accounting. More should be stressed on the worth of material resources to restore the basic origin of worth.



Zhang on His Speech

At the closing ceremony, the Research League of Ecological Economics Discipline was established. Yu Fawen, the Secretary General of China Ecological Economics Society congratulated the foundation of the League and affirmed the essence & milestone meaning of the foundation. The declaration of Research League of Ecological Economics Discipline was announced by Zhang Zheng. Finally, Professor Cui Jianhua from School of Economics at Peking University, the Chair of the School Council, gave the closing speech in which he congratulated the forum and presented his thanks to the guests & faculty. It was pointed out by Cui that the complete success of the forum symbolized a brand-new start of a dialogue platform which we can communicate equally across subjects and time & space. The core spirit Learning from the Past and Envisioning the Future, Seeking Common Ground While Reserving Differences and Welcoming Thoughts from Different Fields would be open to the public after the forum. And all of those who attended the forum believed the academic discussion would promote the rejuvenation of China's ecological economics and facilitate new achievements in China's ecological civilization construction!

The forum was held successfully in which in-depth topics such as the projects explored by the Ecological Economics Research Group of the School of Economics at Peking University were deeply discussed. The hope was placed in the forum which provided a platform and integrated the useful resources to promote the rejuvenation of China's ecological economics and contribute more to the historic mission in China's ecological civilization!



Yu Fawen Congratulated on the Foundation of the League



Cui Jianhua on the Closing Ceremony



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