

The People's Republic of China

Positions for the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development

I. Integrating Technology into Formal Educational Programmes

The need for integrating technology into formal educational programs cannot be overemphasized. Considering the essential nature of education in ensuring a prosperous and globalized society, we have taken part in numerous conferences relating to science and education such as UNESCO to facilitate discussion and formulate initiatives to integrate technology into our schools. We cannot allow the gap between developed and developing nations in this area to widen. By the turn of the millennium most secondary schools and all universities in China were equipped with computers and supplied with appropriate technologies to provide students with tools such as interactive classrooms. Some of the more rural parts of China have yet to be integrated, but progress is being made.

China remains committed to integrating technology as evidenced by our partnership with HP to set up the HP Micro-enterprise Development Program China Operation Center to accelerate its development. The program will support and supply classrooms with teaching material. In support of other developing nations, we have agreed to provide USD3 million worth of equipment for Bangladeshi University's wireless lab. Since 2007, we have been partnering with Intel in order to negotiate the distribution of its classmate PC to more than one million students in the coming year. And while we can see the value of the OLPC program, we are opposed to the idea of a mesh network that would circumvent Chinese sovereignty and facilitate western influence over our students. It is imperative that programs like this consider the implications of its software for the country involved.

In support of stronger partnership between UN organizations such as the CSTD & UNESCO, China's emphasis on the need for more discussion in regards to finding new avenues of integration and affordability is clear. We propose an organization be set up to help facilitate the delivery and incorporation of these beneficial programs into developing nations that would monitor and uphold the integrity of the programs as they relate to the nations in which they are being deployed. A core of software developers to help integrate the new technology and the users, with every effort to keep control over the distribution and uses of the technology by the State, is essential to this new organization, as well as a strong emphasis on affordability.

II. The Impact of Content Filtering On Communication Developments

Connected to the internet in 1995 when less than 10% of our adult population was even aware of the internet, China now has 253 million internet users, making it the largest internet community in the world. As such, it is the duty of the State to ensure the safety & security of its citizens while also allowing for free & open exchange of information and ideas. Our practices in this arena are no different than those universally adopted by international practice. Individual privacy is protected by law and we urge relevant politicians and organizations like ONI to discard prejudices, stop slandering, and refrain from activities that sabotage and undermine China's international relations.

The role of the CSTD & UNCTAD has never been one of policing the internet on an international scale. They are and should be facilitators for the advancement of science and technology in developing countries, for the examination of its implications for development, with recommendations on how to achieve these with maximum efficiency and minimum cost only. These committees, the UN included, have neither the purview nor the capability to impose any kind of authority or policing of the internet and therefore shouldn't propose to do so; it is a matter of State solely.

Committed to the work of WSIS and the Internet Governance Forum, it is imperative that all nations come together to provide safe and adequate internet use for all if we hope to achieve MDG #2, which is why we are strong supporters of the mandates put forth by the IGF (para72). We are also working in the dynamic coalition on the Framework of Principles for the Internet where we are trying to develop a system that works at a higher level than the DNS/router level to avoid the accidental filtering of information that is beneficial to our citizens and vital to improving education and research capabilities to advance our current levels of science and technology and to move forward as a global community.

III. Developing Educational Platforms to Promote Energy Conservation Programmes in Developing Countries

China has been committed to the issue of energy conservation and has incorporated it into every aspect of its national growth. As the 2nd largest producer of energy in the world, we have maintained an energy self-sufficiency rate above 90%, allowing us to stick to an energy guideline that gives priority to energy conservation. The Energy Conservation Law that went into effect in 1998 mandates the State's dedication to research and education through the dissemination of information, new technologies and funding in Chapter 1 Article 6. With the ratification of the 11th Five Year Plan for National Economic & Social Development, China expects to double the per capita GDP over that of 2000 by 2010 while at the same time reducing energy per unit GDP by 20% against registered level at the end of 2005, cutting total emissions of major pollutants by 10%, and successfully bringing green house gas emissions under control, further strengthening the capacity of sustainable development.

The strategic task of actively developing environmental publicity and education in order to raise the nation's consciousness prompted the development of several activities organized all over the country every year since the 1980's such as, World Environment Day, Tree Planting Day, etc. In partnership with the media, the promotion of conservation, with a special emphasis on severely polluted areas & units, has reached most of the population. The government's encouragement of the whole of society participating in this issue has led to a wealth of new opportunities and activities for its citizens in higher education and the workplace. With hundreds of programs of study to the highest degree we have impacted our citizens' awareness. Using our Energy Conservation Education Model School Project, we have successfully promoted energy conservation education at the elementary level in the 150 schools selected to launch the new education programs, cultivating the children-loving-nature quality and sense of responsibility for environmental protection. Websites like Chinagreentravel.com have been designed for use to help teach china's youth about their impact on the environment with a user friendly carbon footprint calculator and a tree planting guide to offset their energy consumption.

Development of an education network that not only reaches its students but its workforce as well, we have regulations in place requiring workers to be educated through conservation seminars assigned by their employers. Taking full advantage of information technology to enrich the contents and functions of their websites by building them up into quick-response and effective platforms for information distribution and communication, these seminars and workshops have ongoing educational impact. While we have a long arduous task ahead of us to complete the education of our people on this issue, our holistic approach will be at the heart of every individual in respect to

energy efficiency in regards to infrastructure, transport, and community planning. This supports the effort to build a people-centered and development oriented all-dimensional information society and to accomplish the MDG's.

And while believing in the mandates of JPI, we believe that the implementation of the MDG's & the targets of the JPI itself must not wait for reforms to be completed but must run in parallel with them. The concept of 'learning by doing' is necessary to facilitate change considering the sizable gap between what the JPI provides for and its actualization so far. The key to being successful is the pairing of concrete action & political will, while taking into consideration the difficult positions and legitimate demands of developing countries to provide practical assistance in priority areas. While shouldering their own responsibilities, each nation should adopt strategies and/or measures tailored to their specific national circumstances to facilitate its achievement of energy conservation goals, including, but not limited to, education promoting consideration of this issue.

Proponents of the Kyoto Protocol, there are still improvements to be made, specifically in the role of developing countries' industrial revolutions being allowed to take place in a way that fosters eco-responsibility but doesn't hinder each nation's growing economy, and the role of developed nations' impacts on those emergent nations. Our work with REEEP has allowed our farmers to not only make a living in livestock but as producers of their own energy, which has a major impact not only on energy conservation itself, but also on waste reduction, and other forms of pollution. We strongly urge other developing nations like ourselves to follow our lead in State sponsored education programs and partnerships with global programs to improve the sustainability of the world.