

China's National Carbon-Pricing System: Challenges and Opportunities

Co-Sponsored by Tsinghua University's Institute of Energy, Environment and Economy
and the Harvard Project on Climate Agreements

With the Support of the Harvard Global Institute

Wednesday – Thursday, October 14 – 15, 2020 Via Zoom

Background and Motivation

Climate change poses a severe threat to the global economy, human society, and local and regional communities and ecosystems. China is the largest emitter of the greenhouse gases that cause climate change but is implementing a number of policies to reduce its emissions. The policy with the greatest impact, over time, may be China's national carbon-pricing system.

This research workshop, led by researchers at Tsinghua and Harvard Universities, will address remaining challenges to designing and implementing China's national carbon-pricing system and thereby, it is hoped, contribute to its effectiveness. Participants – experts on carbon pricing from China, the United States, Europe, and Australia – will make brief presentations to facilitate discussion on specific design issues and on longer-term challenges and opportunities, such as policy interaction (e.g., with ongoing market/policy reform of the power sector) and expansion of coverage (integration of pilots; extension to other sectors; evolution toward absolute, economy-wide cap; evolution toward upstream regulation).

This workshop is part of an ongoing collaboration between Tsinghua University's Institute of Energy, Environment and Economy, directed by Professor Zhang Xiliang, and the Harvard Project on Climate Agreements, Directed by Professor Robert Stavins. Most recently, the two programs co-organized a workshop on subnational climate change policy in China (July 2019), on the basis of which the Harvard Project released a [volume of briefs](#) on this topic.

This agenda, speaker presentations, and other materials related to the workshop may be found on a web page for workshop participants [here](#).

The organizers are grateful to the [Harvard Global Institute](#) for support of the initiative of which this workshop is a part. The Institute supports research initiatives that deepen Harvard University's international engagement and promote University-wide scholarship to address pressing global challenges such as climate change, migration, and transnational relations.

China's National Carbon-Pricing System: Challenges and Opportunities

Agenda

Times below are China Standard Time (as “pm”) and U.S. Eastern Daylight Time (as “am”).

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Status of – and Key Design Issues with – China's National ETS

- 7:00 – 7:30 Zoom orientation, including instruction on simultaneous interpretation; please join as soon as possible after 7:00 – and in any case by 7:15. **Required** of all participants, even those experienced with Zoom.
- 7:30 – 7:40 Welcome and Overview of the Workshop
Zhang Xiliang
Tsinghua University Institute of Energy, Environment and Economy
Robert Stavins
Harvard Project on Climate Agreements
- 7:40 – 8:00 Status Update on China's National Emissions Trading Program
Zhang Xiliang
- 8:00 – 8:30 Discussion
- 8:30 – 8:45 Design Topic 1: Setting and comparing benchmarks; potential for trading across sectors and sub-sectors
Zhang Jingjie
China Electricity Council
- 8:45 – 8:55 Response
Billy Pizer
Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University
- 8:55 – 9:15 Discussion
- 9:15 – 9:30 Break
- 9:30 – 9:45 Design topic 2: MRV and Enforcement
Zhang Lixin
China Quality Certification Centre
- 9:45 – 9:55 Response
Valerie Karplus
Carnegie Mellon University
- 9:55 – 10:30 Discussion; conclusions; adjourn

Thursday, October 15, 2020

Longer-term challenges to – and opportunities for – China's national ETS

- 7:30 – 7:35 Welcome
Zhang Xiliang
Robert Stavins
- 7:35 – 7:55 Overview of longer-term challenges to – and opportunities for – China's national ETS
Duan Maosheng
China Carbon Market Center, Tsinghua University
- 7:55 – 8:15 Discussion
- 8:15 – 8:30 Policy Interactions within a Carbon-Pricing System
Robert Stavins
- 8:30 – 8:40 Response
Qi Shaozhou
Wuhan University
- 8:40 – 8:50 Response: Interactions between ETS and Power-Sector
Wu Libo
Fudan University
- 8:50 – 9:10 Discussion
- 9:10 – 9:25 Break
- 9:25 – 9:40 Potential Reforms and Extensions to the Trading Program
Lawrence Goulder
Stanford University
- 9:40 – 9:50 Response
Zeng Xuelan
Guangdong Research Center for Climate Change, Ministry of Ecology
and Environment, Sun Yat-sen University
- 9:50 – 10:20 Discussion
- 10:20 – 10:30 Closing remarks; Adjourn

China's National Carbon-Pricing System: Challenges and Opportunities

Co-Sponsored by Tsinghua University's Institute of Energy, Environment and Economy
and the Harvard Project on Climate Agreements

Wednesday – Thursday, October 14 – 15, 2020 Via Zoom

Participants

Cyril CASSISA

Senior Energy Analyst, Environment and
Climate Change Unit; Coordinator, IEA-China
Project on China's Emissions Trading System
International Energy Agency

DUAN Maosheng

Professor and Director, China Carbon Market
Center (CCMC)
Tsinghua University

VK DUGGAL

Principal Climate Change Specialist
Asian Development Bank

Jackson EWING

Senior Fellow, Nicholas Institute for
Environmental Policy Solutions
Duke University

Lawrence GOULDER

Shuzo Nishihara Professor of Environmental
and Resource Economics
Stanford University

Frank JOTZO

Professor, Crawford School of Public Policy;
Director, Centre for Climate and Energy
Policy
Australian National University

Valerie KARPLUS

Associate Professor of Engineering and
Public Policy
Carnegie Mellon University

Nathaniel KEOHANE

Senior Vice President, Climate
Environmental Defense Fund

Paichen LI

Ph.D. Student in Public Policy (Economics)
Harvard University

Xianling LONG

Ph.D. Student in Management Science and
Engineering
Stanford University

LU Xuedu

Lead Climate Change Specialist
East Asia Department
Asian Development Bank

Richard MORGENSTERN

Senior Fellow
Resources for the Future

William PIZER

Susan B. King Distinguished Professor of Public
Policy, Sanford School of Public Policy
Duke University

QI Shaozhou

Professor; Director, Climate Change and
Energy Economics Study Centre
Wuhan University

QIAN Guoqiang

Deputy General Manager
SinoCarbon

Stian REKLEV

Director, Co-founder, and China Correspondent
Carbon Pulse

Alistair RITCHIE

Director of Asia-Pacific Sustainability
Asia Society Policy Institute

Robert STAVINS

Director, Harvard Project on Climate
Agreements; A.J. Meyer Professor of Energy
and Economic Development;
Harvard Kennedy School

Robert STOWE

Co-Director
Harvard Project on Climate Agreements
Harvard Kennedy School

WANG Pu

Associate Professor, Institutes of Sciences and
Development
Chinese Academy of Sciences

WEI Leiyu

China Electricity Council

WU Libo

Professor; Director, Center for Energy
Economics and Strategy Studies
Fudan University

ZENG Xuelan

Director, Guangdong Research Center for
Climate Change, Ministry of Ecology and
Environment
Sun Yat-sen University

ZHANG Jianyu

Chief Representative and Vice President
Environmental Defense Fund – China

ZHANG Jingjie

Division Chief, Department of Environmental
Protection and Response to Climate Change
China Electricity Council

ZHANG Junjie

Director, Environmental Research Center, and
Director, Master of Environmental Policy
Program
Duke Kunshan University

ZHANG Lixin

Deputy Division Chief
China Quality Certification Centre

ZHANG Xiliang

Professor; Director, Institute of Energy,
Environment and Economy
Tsinghua University

ZHANG Xin

Director, CDM and Carbon Market
Management
National Center for Climate Change Strategy
and International Cooperation

ZHAO Xiaolu

Senior Manager, China Climate Initiative
Environmental Defense Fund – China

ZHOU Li

Associate Professor; Deputy Director, China
Carbon Market Center
Tsinghua University