

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.

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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

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Participants

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VK DUGGAL

Principal Climate Change Specialist
Asian Development Bank

Jackson EWING

Senior Fellow, Nicholas Institute for
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Duke University

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Shuzo Nishihara Professor of Environmental
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Stanford University

Frank JOTZO

Professor, Crawford School of Public Policy;
Director, Centre for Climate and Energy
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Resources for the Future

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Carbon Pulse

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Harvard Kennedy School

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Chief Representative and Vice President
Environmental Defense Fund – China

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China Electricity Council

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Director, Master of Environmental Policy
Program
Duke Kunshan University

ZHANG Lixin
Deputy Division Chief
China Quality Certification Centre

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Tsinghua University

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