

2014

BioTechnology

An Indian Journal

FULL PAPER

BTAIJ, 10(24), 2014 [16099-16105]

Non-Governmental organization ecological development and environmental influence research

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ABSTRACT

As an active pioneer in environmental protection in China, Chinese Environmental NGO is positively improving the environmental situation of China. In order to analyze the current situation and problems of Chinese Environmental NGO in construction of environment-friendly society, this article explores strategies for the construction of environment-friendly society from various aspects, such as improve the legislation and management system of Environmental NGO, entitle Environmental NGO with clear environmental rights and interests, strengthen governmental support, advocate public participation in environmental protection expand financial resources, carry out public environmental education and propaganda, participate in government supervision, influence environmental decision-making, conduct environmental rescue, and so on. This is intended for structure the possibility of multi-roles' participation in governance of Chinese environmental issues and construction of environmental-friendly society.

KEYWORDS

Ecological development; Environmental influence; Non-governmental organization.



INTRODUCTION

Since the 1990s, Chinese non-government organizations began to play a major role in China's environment affairs with full of vitality, such as assist with the bid for Olympics, call for protection of Tibetan antelope, protect black snub-nosed monkey and so on. A series of successful cases have gradually attracted the attention of Chinese people, scholars and government. Their activities have pushed people to deeply rethink about survival value.

As one form of community supervision, Non-Governmental Organization is an important measure of innovation for environmental policy system. It is playing a vital role in strengthening public environmental awareness, relieving the contradictions between economic development and the increasingly serious ecological crisis, and building an environment-friendly society. As the reduction of direct government investment in public welfare undertakings, the burden of environmental protection has been taken by environmental NGOs, which will determine the future state of the environment in China and even around the world. Thus, analysis of basic issues and development status in China of Environmental NGOs is not only conducive to an overall understanding of their roles and development trend, but also of great theoretical and practical significance to make recommendations for their development direction and build an environment-friendly society.

SURVEY METHOD

Non-Governmental Organization was first mentioned in one document of the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 1994, but it has not universally accepted definition so far. Economic and Social Council have generally defined it in No. 288 (x) resolution as international organizations which are not established under government agreements in 1952. Department of Public Information regarded it as non-profit voluntary civic organizations at national or international level. World Bank defined it as private organizations which engage in activities such as enhance the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services or promote community development.

Construction of environment-friendly society is an inevitable choice for improving international competitiveness. With a rapid development of economy and society, China is facing a tough situation of environmental resources and international competitive pressures. From the perspective of environmental resources, China is rich in total amount but poor in amount per capita, and there exists long-standing contradictions between environmental resources and a growing population. Under an accelerative development of industrialization and urbanization, the increased resource consumption has intensified the conflict of resource shortage. The continual shifts of industries from developed countries to China have intensified the pressure on domestic resources supply and environmental pollutions. In the structure of export product, primary products and raw materials still take a high proportion, thus China still stays in the downstream of international trade division. High product cost is mainly due to high resource consumption, high waste and low utilization rate, which have affected the competitiveness of Chinese enterprises and industries, and restricted the quality of economic growth and improvement of efficiency. In the process of economic globalization, the role of tariff barriers has been faded, while non-tariff barriers such as energy efficiency, environmental standards, waste recycling, packaging and other green barriers have become more severe, and have serious impacts on China's foreign trades, especially export expansion.

Due to the global environment is getting worse and worse, environmental problems are highlight in the field of international relations. It becomes the focus of governments and the people around the world. The emergence of environment problems give rise to a new international actor named environmental non-government organizations. As a part of global non-government organization, it is a country's domestic or multinational private voluntary organization which is non-profit nonviolent, separated from government and enterprises with the implement of self-management, aiming at environmental and resources protection. It implements activities towards the ecological environment protection and management. Its development and expanding are responses to the deterioration of global environment and traditional global governances' uselessness on solving environment problem. As a new factor of global governance institutional reform, it shows the new possibility of solving global ecology problem.

DISCUSSION

Comparing with the global non-government organizations, Chinese theoretical research on environmental non-government organizations is still during the starting process. The current global society has not defined environment-friendly society yet. From the angel of knowing the principle of environment-friendly society and its implement basis, its connotation has features as following. The environment problem leads to the birth of environment-friendly society. It is a way of thinking on solving environment problem fundamentally. It helps environmental economic development model, social behavior, and political system, support of science and technology and culture to melt under the frame of the organic unified scientific development. The environment-friendly society is a social development of human being featured as environmentally friendly, the detailed pattern of society manifestation for sustainable development. It is the human and the nature harmonious society. It is the society of human being in harmony with nature and human being. The environment friendly society requires the development of economic society needs to be complied with ecological rules. It develops towards the good side of maintaining ecological environment, promotes the overall harmonious continuous development of social economy with application of ecological environmental protections' ideas and ways. The environment friendly economic development model, green politics system, environment cultural values, green science technology are the basic elements, ways and measures of building the environment friendly society. Environment friendly is with the concept of hierarchy and dynamic nature. The current environment friendly means the social and economic activities minimize its load and impact to the environment under the existing technical and economic conditions. Finally we need to control these kinds of load and impact on resource supply capacity of ecosystem and environmental self-purification capacity, to form virtuous cycle between the social economic activities and ecological system.

The sustainable development includes the social development, maintaining and construction of good ecological environment. It is a new type of development strategy showing the concept of scientific development and the times connotation. It is a result after human being self-exam the traditional development mode. The core problem of sustainable development is how to deal with relations of economic development and population, resources and environment, promotes its harmonious development. Economic development and population, resources and environment are inseparable and connect with each other. They are mutually restricted, interactional entity influence, promote each other. As the most populous country, the huge population base gives economy, society, resource and environment pressure. It seriously restricts the development of China's economy and the improvement of people's life. Resource is the basic element of economy development. The restriction of natural resources becomes the focus of human being sustainable development. China is relatively poor resources country. The resource intension situation would exist for long time. At the present stage, China still has many troubles such as the disorder of management system, low degree of public recognition, weak social influence, low activity level of environmental non-government organizations, lack of funds, limited social influence and so on. Therefore, we have to change the economic growth pattern, choose the production pattern and consumption pattern which save resources. It helps the reasonable develop and sustainable use of resource, builds material resource basis for the economic social sustainable development.

The obstacle of management system restricts the standard development of environmental non-government organizations. The register management system of environmental non-government organizations is featured as high threshold, too much limitation, and poor regulations, etc. Nongovernmental organizations implement the dual check, dual duty, double supervision management system by the registration administration organ and the professional authority. The dual management system restricts the establishment of legal environmental non-government organizations. It becomes the negative factor of China environmental non-government organizations development for a long period of time. The mutual management system leads to the environmental non-government organizations needs to be under the control and management of institution authorized by government before it becomes legal organization. Since the professional authority is responsible for its environmental non-government organizations activity without chance of gaining profit, there is no specific instruction for or any examination duty professional authority in rules. It leads to every professional authority usually makes an excuse when the environmental non-government organizations applies. The dual management system becomes the obstacle of NGOs development.

Enhance the activity level of environmental NGO. The activities implemented by the environmental NGO are divided into 3 levels: make the public aware of environmental and resource crisis through environmental education; negotiate with the government about environmental decision-making as an interested party; exert influence against the implementation behavior after the introduction of environmental policy. The activities of the next 2 levels have been carried out by environmental NGO in western countries due to the development of a long history, the Chinese environmental NGO was seldom in opposition with the government on behalf of the public or groups whose current activities still stay in the first level, that is to organize environment lecture, seminar, training course, exhibition, preparation of environmental science book, propaganda through media and other environment public education fields. The Chinese environment NGO organized activities in the proportion of publicity 58.6%, training activities 57%, and policy providing related to the second level 38.5%, it cannot be accommodated by the existing system for the environment NGO to challenge the public and monitor the government as an organization. It is easier for the environment NGO to get engaged in environmental education, but there is only sporadic exploration and breakthrough to carry out oversight and policy supervision to government.

Shortage of fund and limited financing channel are the problems the environment NGO is facing. Funding shortage is a prominent problem faced by environmental NGO in China. Environmental NGO is able to raise fund through government funding, membership income, operating revenue, enterprise sponsor, private donation and a variety of ways. The funding mainly come from foreign sources and the government, private donation and membership income are very low, let alone the income increase through the operating income of their own organization. The official environment NGO's revenue mainly depends on fund of government-run project, financial allocation and subsidy, the civil environmental NGO is mostly dependent on foreign funding. The government takes limited measurement to encourages individual and enterprise donation, which leading to the results that Chinese environmental NGO and enterprise have no close relationship, the activity field, activity scale and activity sustainability of the environmental NGO are limited, hindering the development of the environmental NGO.

The public recognition is low and the social influence is not high. Environmental NGO is a new thing in China, and most people have limited understanding with Chinese environmental NGO. However, the development of western environmental NGO has a deep heritage, including civic awareness, concept of autonomy, legal concept, spirit of contract, public spirit and other aspects. The long-term government regulation and feudal peasant mentality in China have weakened the sense of democracy, spirit of contract and public concept that NGO should have, the citizen lacks of enthusiasm to NGO, and people do not understand the value orientation to take the social responsibility from the bottom up.

RESULT

Improve the legislation and management system of environmental NGO. The government needs to recognize the significance of environmental governance by the environmental NGO, guarantee the full development of environmental NGO from the respects of legislation and institution, formulate the Basic Chinese NGO Law, establish the relatively independent NGO management system with authority, although the existing legal framework allows development and carries out supervision on environmental NGO, it is actually a restrictive management, the current model should be shifted to supervision and service-oriented management, that is, the government plays a role of public servant, actively provides various services for the environment NGO to promote development, and monitor the environmental NGO to implement activities through rational and effective mechanism.

We give environmental NGOs clear environmental rights and interests. We clearly empower environmental non-government organizations, the public and etc. to fully guarantee kinds of environmental rights and interests. These measures include making transparent decision; releasing the government monopoly of environmental information to public; the set up and improvement of the environmental dispute resolution mechanism; apply the public interest litigation mechanism; making sure any individual and units have rights to bring a civil lawsuit against damage of the environment. Implement of environment friendly public supervision and hearing system. The protection of China environment relates to public living environment directly. The

public have right to supervise environment, stop the environmental damage activities. The decision making process should adopt the hearing system; listen to the opinions of environmental non-government organizations and public actively. Government should fully learn the function of environmental non-government organizations, try to make environmental non-government organizations take part in the decision making of environment problem, and strengthen the negotiation and communication with environmental non-government organizations during the decision making of environment problem. Environmental non-government organizations should submit the proposal and statement to related department by usage of various information channels.

We should strengthen governments' supports for environmental non-government organizations. Environmental non-government organizations in China are not able to undertake the social function of government. It is necessary for government to transfer the professionalization ability to environmental non-government organizations through training and etc. At current stage, China government is trying best to help the ability building of civil environmental group, trying to form national environmental protection organization cooperation network which contains legal environmental non-government organizations and environmental protection volunteer. We should go proceed with targeted batches of business trainings and professional guidance for environmental non-government organizations and environmental protection volunteer at regular intervals. Environmental non-government organizations and environmental protection volunteer collect the environment information, submit constructive environmental protection proposal to government and Chinese people's political consultative conference of National People's Congress, and encourage the environmental public welfare undertakings of environmental non-government organizations through preferential tax system. Environmental non-government organizations accepts social donation to develop the environmental business. Donation and other legal incomes could apply for duty-free treatment. The donator could also enjoy the duty-free treatment. It improves the enthusiasm of public to devote into environmental business.

We should advocate the public's participation in environmental protection activities. We should encourage and energetically promote the volunteers' activities in environmental area. As the practitioner of volunteerism, volunteer is the important manpower resource of environmental non-government organizations. We should encourage and energetically promote the volunteers' activities, promote the development of China environmental non-government organizations. We find out from the research that nearly 91.5% public is willing to attend volunteers' activities if the condition is permitted. The lack of opportunities provided by the outside world is the main reason we restrict the public to participate in environmental volunteer activities. China environmental non-government organizations should coordinate and communicate with media, government, community and so on institution, develop and use the potential volunteer resource.

Expand the financial resources. Increase revenues by providing paid services to community, including provide consultation services on product development, market research, basic research and other aspects for environmental protection industries together with arrangement and management services for large-scale environmental activities. Environmental NGO can expand collection sources and increase fund-raising incomes, for example, conduct charity performances and advertising media such as TV, Internet, newspaper, magazine and other forms to persuade people at home and abroad to donate. Meanwhile, the Environmental NGO can also seek financial support from the government. In addition to forms of financial allocations and subsidies, the government should also provide expenditure support oriented by environmental projects, which is conducive to the formation of a competitive mechanism, and promote Environmental NGO to improve their efficiency and accelerate the development.

Carry out public environmental education and propaganda. Chinese Environmental NGOs carry out environmental education and propaganda activities through the publication of books, printed materials, lectures, trainings and other ways. For example, the Green Hope Action organized by Environmental NGO of Friends of Nature sent volunteers to Hope Primary Schools to carry out environmental education from 2000. China Project in Television Trust for the Environment popularizes knowledge about environment and sustainable development to the public. It commits itself to introducing outstanding international educational video materials about environment, human development and health issues into China, building a data bank of environmental educational videos, providing environmental information services to government departments, environmental agencies, research institutions, schools, community and associations, families and individuals, promoting the

share of environmental educational resources through free borrowing services, and improving environmental awareness of the society and publics.

Participate in government supervision and influence environmental decision-making. Environmental NGO actively undertake the social role of the state environmental policy supervisor based on public basis, professional knowledge and communication channels. To the government, the pressure of public opinion is playing a vital role in environmental decision-making. Chinese Environmental NGOs put forward research reports, policy proposals and other forms and use legal channels to increase political pressures on the government, so as to influence the government decision-making on environmental issues, promote government environmental policy adjustments, and rationally allocate environmental interests and public welfare resources. Increase disclosures of environmental cases. Chinese Environmental NGOs directly expose environmental malicious events and call for community to exert pressures. This is an important method of social supervision in environmental field.

Conduct environmental rescue. Environmental NGOs have an organization advantage. When cases of environmental pollution or other environmental issues happened, Environmental NGOs can effectively support the victims to take a legal action. In case of the laws failed to completely protect the interests of victims, the Environmental NGOs can organize the victims to carry out various activities in order to exert pressures on polluters and the government, raise reasonable appeals and claim for reasonable compensation. Online Environmental NGOs, which conduct environment activities in virtual space based on the Internet, make use of vast network resources, establish a platform for exchange of information and share of resources, and demonstrate disasters caused by environmental destructions to human beings. Carry out various special activities for ecological environmental protection, including biodiversity conservation, maintenance of natural ecology, trees planting, water quality purification, control of air pollution, desertification prevention, governance of water loss and soil erosion in the upstream of the Yellow River, protection of community environment, garbage classification, recycling of resources, and so on.

CONCLUSION

The social development is facing environmental pollution, ecological fragility, the energy crisis and other problems, building a resource-saving society and environment-friendly society is a requirement of times and trend. If we keep obtaining from the nature and trying to conquer the nature, we will result in disastrous consequences. Attach enough importance to issues among population, resources and ecological environment, coordinate harmonious development between human beings and nature, deal with issues between economic development and population growth and resource utilization, environmental conservation and rational exploration, and place the conservation of resources on the top, so as to construct industrial structure and consumption concept that conducive to resource conservation, build a resource-saving society, and achieve all-round and sustainable development.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This work was supported by the Research Foundation of Chongqing University of Education (KY201333B).

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