



Sino-German Center for Sustainable Development

A new chapter in the development partnership between Germany and China

Context

For forty years now, Germany and China have been successfully working together in and through development cooperation. China has developed rapidly over recent decades, lifting several hundred million people out of extreme poverty, while providing aid to developing countries in the framework of South-South cooperation. In recent years China's importance as a global actor has grown substantially. It is currently the world's second largest economy and largest donor in South-South cooperation. In parallel with China's development, the focus of Sino-German cooperation has shifted: Traditional bilateral development cooperation between Germany and China has been phased out. Today, both countries are jointly fostering sustainable development within a global context.

To explore synergies between German development cooperation and Chinese foreign aid and South-South cooperation, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Ministry of Commerce (MofCom) of the People's Republic of China jointly established the Sino-German Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) on 11 May 2017, with the aim of institutionalizing the partnership.

The establishment of the CSD opened a new chapter in the development partnership between China and Germany. Consequently, from 2020 BMZ categorizes China as global partner with whom it works strategically together to preserve and provide global public goods such as climate, biodiversity and public health and to jointly contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development. The CSD is a concrete effort to vitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development enshrined in the 2030 Agenda.

Objective

China and Germany cooperate to achieve global and regional development goals.

Partners

The CSD is jointly steered by:



Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany



Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China

The CSD is jointly operated by:



Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



Trade Development Bureau (TDB)

Activities in the framework of the CSD are jointly implemented by different German, Chinese and international partners.



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Approach

The CSD facilitates dialogue between China and Germany on development cooperation and supports joint projects with third countries, on global and regional level as well as with the business sector.

More concretely, the CSD operates in three pillars:

1. Sino-German Dialogue on Development Cooperation

A prerequisite for Germany and China to develop synergies and act together in the field of development cooperation is a deeper understanding of their respective development policies, aid delivery systems, and their comparative advantages. To this end, the CSD supports the political, technical, and academic dialogue on development cooperation between China and Germany.

The CSD has:

- a. supported and fed lessons learnt into the Sino-German Development Cooperation Commission – the political dialogue between BMZ and MofCom;
- b. facilitated the start of an in-depth exchange on foreign-aid policies, regulations and planning between the [China International Development Cooperation Agency](#) and BMZ and the initiation of the institutional partnership;
- c. supported joint research and academic cooperation related to sustainable development to integrate Chinese and German academic institutions into development cooperation dialogues;

[Exporting out of China or out of Africa? Automation versus Relocation in the Global Clothing Industry](#) – joint research between the German Development Institute and China's Center for International Knowledge on Development.

Sustainable Development Seminars with the Summer School programmes of the University of International Business and Economics in [2019](#) and [2021](#).

[Potentials for triangular cooperation between African countries, China and Germany](#) – joint scoping study by German, Chinese and Ethiopian researchers and practitioners.

[Academic exchange and fostering young talents in the field of development cooperation](#) – collaboration with China Agriculture University.

- d. hosted Sino-German Fora on Sustainable Development in cooperation with various Chinese, German, and international partners to facilitate open and inclusive discussions on international development cooperation;



For more information, please visit:

[The 1st Sino-German Forum in Munich;](#)

[The 2nd Sino-German Forum in Beijing;](#)

[The Sino-German Forum on Sustainable Development 2021.](#)

A variety of governmental organizations, research and academic institutions is taking part in the dialogue and contributes to it. Thus, the CSD is not only providing the framework for the Sino-German development partnership, but also supporting cooperation systems and networks for a global partnership for sustainable development.

2. Regional, Global, and Triangular Cooperation Projects

As a concrete step to develop solutions for global development challenges, the Center identifies, prepares, supports, and evaluates regional, global, and triangular cooperation projects between Germany, China, and other countries, particularly in Africa and Asia. Addressing the need and request from the partner countries, the CSD brings the three or more parties together and develops innovative cooperation models. The experience and lessons learnt are in return summarized and fed into the Sino-German Dialogue on Development Cooperation.

Four triangular projects are currently being implemented. Further projects will be announced soon.

[Technical Vocational Education and Training for Rural Jobs in Laos](#)

Implemented by the Vocational Education Development Institute of Laos, Qingdao Education Bureau and Pingdu Secondary Vocational Technical School in China, and the GIZ, the project provides theoretical and practical training in China for Laotian vocational training teachers, aiming at increasing their knowledge and skills in rural occupations based on the model of a dual, praxis oriented vocational education.



Sustainable Textile Investment and Operation in Ethiopia

The project aims at improving the environmental, social and labour standards of Ethiopia's textile sector through capacity development and awareness raising for Chinese investors/factory managers and their local business partners with a potential for scaling-up and replication elsewhere in Africa and Asia. It is implemented by the United Nation's Industrial Development Organization through its Programme for Country Partnership, the GIZ, China National Textile and Apparel Council, and the Ethiopian Textile Industry Development Institute.

Fair and Effective Protected Area Management for Sustainable Development – working together towards global standards

The project aims at improving the quality of protected area management and governance in African partner countries, through implementation of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Green List standard. The project implementation is coordinated by IUCN and combines contributions by the Chinese Academy of Forestry, GIZ, Department of National Parks and Wildlife of Zambia, Directorate of Wildlife and National Parks of Namibia, and the KfW Development Bank.

Global Low Carbon Tea Triangular Cooperation in Kenya's Tea Value Chain

The project objective is to strengthen Kenya's tea value chain to support rural livelihoods and contribute to climate action through South-South and Triangular Cooperation. The implementation is coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, GIZ, Foreign Economic Cooperation Center of the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization, the Kenyan Tea Development Agency, and the Ethical Tea Partnership.

3. Partnership with Businesses

The Chinese South-South Cooperation model combines aid, trade, and investment with a focus on developing infrastructure. Chinese enterprises are increasingly important suppliers in Africa. German development cooperation

links public development cooperation with private sector engagement for sustainable development and focusses on capacity development in partner countries. Cooperation linking business and development can bring a benefit for developing countries, but also for Chinese and German enterprises.

The CSD actively seeks partnerships with Chinese, German, and European enterprises to engage on responsible business conduct, support implementation of sustainability standards for enterprises working abroad, and combine business activities with development cooperation approaches, to promote sustainable development in third countries.

Strategic cooperation with industry associations is the cornerstone for the CSD to establish partnerships with economic actors in key sectors such as infrastructure, mineral resources, textile, and others. Efforts to promote cooperation with businesses focus mainly on the following work streams:

Awareness raising and capacity development for companies

Together with the [China International Contractors Associations](#), and the [China Chamber of Commerce of Metals, Minerals & Chemicals Importers & Exporters](#), the CSD conducts awareness raising and capacity development activities for Chinese companies overseas on different areas of sustainable development.

Development of sustainability guidelines and tools

The CSD jointly develops, updates, and implements sustainability guidelines and standards with Chinese business associations for Chinese enterprises abroad in the areas of infrastructure, textile, forestry, and mining.

Sustainability assessments and benchmarking

The CSD accompanies benchmarking and collection of good sustainability practices in overseas investments and operations.

Joint projects with and in third countries

The CSD engages with Chinese, German, and European companies to identify and prepare triangular cooperation projects to increase contribution from the private sectors to sustainable development in third countries.



The CSD actively seeks and promotes business partnerships through public dialogues. For more information, please visit [Sino-German Sustainability Summit](#).

Contact Information

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