

CHINA JIANGSU PROVINCE (2015-2020)

RESULTS FACTSHEET

OVERVIEW

As the second largest economy in the world, China has positioned itself as a forerunner of sustainable development, guided by the new national development vision known as “Ecological Civilization”. In 2015, the Chinese Government expressed its interest to join PAGE, starting at the provincial level in Jiangsu, the second richest province in the country.

Jiangsu has demonstrated a strong commitment to green economy in recent years by fostering green and high-tech industries, shifting towards energy saving and resource efficient production and consumption models, redefining the eco-redlines of conservation zones, and enhancing the policy monitoring, coordination and evaluation of green development progress. The latest master development plan, the 13th Five-Year Development Plan (2016-2020) of Jiangsu Province, has formally established these areas as policy priorities.

Since 2015, PAGE has been supporting the province with macro-level green economy policy monitoring and sectoral policy advisory in the areas of green industrial development, green trade, as well as capacity building and learning activities. In doing so, PAGE’s work is advancing Jiangsu’s contribution towards SDGs 4, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 17.



STORY OF RESULTS

Supporting green economy policies and measurement frameworks

PAGE’s engagement in China began with a [stocktaking report](#) on Jiangsu’s green economy, which summarized successes and good practices at the policy, business and sub-provincial levels and identified major challenges for green economy policy implementation. As a result, PAGE identified key areas for policy support aligned with the local government’s implementation of the 13th Five-Year Plan, including measuring the green economy performance, greening industrial parks and promoting green trade.

In an effort to move the country beyond a GDP-driven policy cycle, China has called for the development of a comprehensive measurement framework with green development indicators at the national and provincial levels. To support Jiangsu’s efforts in this, PAGE work has focused on the development and local adaptation of a Green Economy Progress (GEP) Measurement Framework, the first application of this tool at the sub-national level. The Jiangsu GEP Measurement Framework complements the existing framework used by the provincial government with strengthened social and gender dimensions, and will help identify policy gaps and opportunities for future resource allocations. Following the consultation of initial results with the provincial government, the GEP

Measurement Framework is now broadened to measure the performance of 13 prefecture-level cities in Jiangsu.

Thematic and sectoral policy reform

As one of China’s major industrial powerhouses, Jiangsu was the first province to release a provincial [Plan on Ecological Civilization Construction \(2013-2022\)](#), which points out the mid- and long-term development goals for Jiangsu. The plan foresees the greening of industrial parks as a key means for achieving clean and circular production. It sets the target for all provincial-level industrial parks to meet the national Eco-park standard by 2022.

In support of this goal, and in line with the recommendation of the green economy stocktaking report, PAGE’s key implementing partner—the Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy (PRCEE) under the Ministry of Ecology and Environment in China—has started promoting the green transition of industrial parks. Specifically, PRCEE, with support from PAGE, has developed a Jiangsu Green Industrial Park Assessment Study and Policy Guideline to take stock of the key policy instruments catalyzing green transformation at the park level and to inform industrial park administrators and responsible ministries on best practices and lessons learned. Related multi-stakeholder dialogues, workshops

and study tours among Jiangsu's industrial parks fostered mutual learning among park administrators and regulators, local and international experts and business representatives with the aim to eventually build a global network for peer learning and exchange. Complementary work focused on a feasibility study analysing the applicability of a joint UNIDO-World Bank-GIZ tool, the International Framework of Eco-Industrial Parks, in selected Jiangsu parks.

Building on the experience with the GEP Measurement Framework, PAGE also contributed to a Green Industrial Progress Index for measuring the green industry development progress in China's 18 highly industrialized provinces, including Jiangsu. A final assessment report is under preparation to highlight priorities in China's green industrialization process.

With Jiangsu being one of the biggest clusters for solar energy and textile products, PAGE conducted a study on south-south trade in environmental goods and services and collaborated with the Research Institute for Global Value Chain (RIGVC) for a baseline assessment of sustainable textile trade and value chains in Jiangsu. The studies provided the basis for multi-sectoral workshops and trainings on trade in environmentally-sound technologies and sustainable textile value chains, and also summarized good practices later shared at international events such as the UN Forum on Sustainability Standards and UN Economic Commission for Europe meetings. As a result, the RIGVC has received requests for capacity support on sustainable value chains from other provinces and cities in China. The Environment and Trade Hub of UN Environment is working with RIGVC and other partners to follow up on these requests and explore opportunities to take the green trade work forward.

Building institutional and individual capacity for inclusive green economy

The lack of knowledge and understanding of inclusive green economy was one of the main challenges identified during PAGE's stakeholder consultations. To address this, PAGE organized a provincial green economy academy in 2017 that brought Jiangsu policymakers and front-line environmental bureau officers from seven Jiangsu municipalities together to discuss social inclusiveness, the green development potential and strategies, modelling and indicator tools, and the application of natural capital accounting in green development planning.

PAGE's work also strengthened the institutional capacity of Nanjing University, a key research university at the provincial level, to provide evidence-based policy analysis and advisory to the provincial policymakers. Nanjing University is committed to host a dedicated database on Jiangsu's green economy progress, to conduct regular assessment in the coming years, and to foster a GEP learning network among interested university partners in other provinces.

Scaling up Green Economy Actions in other areas

Inspired by the PAGE Jiangsu experience, the city of Dongying in Shandong province has embarked on its own green economy transition. Policymakers from Dongying enhanced their green knowledge and capacity through participation at PAGE events and conferences. Applying PAGE's green economy policy approach and analysis, PREE is now providing policy assistance to the local policymakers in Dongying to identify green opportunities, priorities and gaps during its transition.

THE OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES AHEAD

China's unprecedented efforts to reclaim blue sky and clean water has put local governments and businesses under pressure to comply with stringent environmental standards. This gives strong incentives for local governments and businesses to develop alternative, green sectors and adopt green technologies fast enough to mitigate the loss of jobs and government revenue. As a result, PAGE is preparing to engage with Jiangsu policymakers and industrial parks in tripartite dialogues to explore policy support and strategies for a just and low-carbon transition.

While greening industrial parks is an established policy agenda in China, PAGE analysis suggests that the green economy performance varies across the industrial parks. Building on the exchange that PAGE facilitated in Jiangsu, a policy window is open for scaling up this work at domestic level, but also at the global stage, in view China's growing influence through overseas investment in developing countries. The challenge remains to ensure that new industrial parks are attracting green sectors and enterprises, creating green jobs and contributing to poverty eradication. Under the South-South Cooperation Framework, this presents an unique opportunity to join force with other PAGE partner countries to promote green industrial parks.



Since its inception in 2013, The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) has grown into a prominent alliance of five UN agencies, eight funding partners, and eighteen countries that work together to transform economies into drivers of sustainability.

Thanks to this integrated approach and support of a wide range of partners, PAGE is increasingly recognized as a model to deliver coordinated support to countries for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets of the Paris Agreement.

MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE CHINA:

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