

Obstruction and Measures of China Ecological Civilization Construction

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In the recently promulgated Decisions at the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the Communist Party of China put forward new strategic objective and task about China social development, which enhanced economic construction to a strategic height of developing the entire social civilization and required vigorous promotion of economic construction and building of a “wild China”. This indicates that the ruling party of China has had progressed idea of governing and improvement of government level. Nevertheless, given the various contradictions and difficulties in the rapid Chinese social development, it is an issue to be investigated whether the objective and task of ecological civilization construction can be achieved.

Keywords: ecological civilization, wild China, realistic obstruction, measure

Introduction

The Communist Party of China proposed higher requirement on China social construction in the Decisions at the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, brought ecological civilization construction into the overall pattern of China modernization construction and emphasized the important position of ecological civilization construction in China social development.

China Social Development Clamors for Ecological Civilization

Ecological civilization is a basic need to improve people's sense of happiness and to build a wild China

People's sense of happiness roots from improvement of their material life level and enrichment of their spiritual life. Material life is the foundation of people's happiness. However, currently, the living environment of human being is under frequent damage and the material basis (drinking water, air and food) needed for human subsistence is almost exposed to pollution, which are difficult issues left behind by the industrial civilization and yet to be urgently resolved by human being. Therefore, if the above issues can't get resolved, even if we accumulate much more material wealth, it is nothing more than polluted and unsafe material wealth. People might live in panic as a result of food, water and air polluted. The haze weather in Beijing recently

is a realistic case study, in which people's happiness has no assurance. Ecological civilization construction is likely to return us a green sky, help to repair the already extremely fragile living environment and enable us to eat safe and secure food. Such material products accumulation is of real meaning, which is qualified to be called wealth, and with which people can really feel happy. In the Report at the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the building of a wild China was put forward, which requires us to place more emphasis on protection of the environment and maintain balance of ecology, as ecological civilization construction is also an important approach to realize building of a “wild China”.

Ecological civilization is a necessary choice to realize sustainable development of economy

With the reform and opening up in China for over thirty years, China has realized economic boom. However, the development in the past several decades is extensive form of economic development mode based on high consumption and high pollution, as a result of which the contradiction of continuously reduced resources and continuously increase in the demand on resources becomes more and more prominent. Damage of ecological environment still exists universally in the process of economic development and the sustainable development of economy in the future suffers from serious impacts. It is highly time that we had to realize transfer of economic development mode from extensive form to intensive form. This requires us to pay more attention to protection of ecological environment and lay stress

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on the harmonious development of economy and ecological environment. This ensures sustainable economic development for ever and leaves the natural resources and ecological environment required for development of our descendants.

Ecological civilization is an important component of the overall pattern of china social development

The Communist Party of China put forward the overall pattern of social development, namely, “Five in One”, in the Decisions at the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China --- building of socialism with Chinese characteristics with integration of socialist market economy, socialist democratic politics, advanced socialist culture, harmonious socialist society and socialist ecological civilization” is an overall and perfect social system. In this system, not only material civilization and spiritual civilization are emphasized, but also social civilization, political civilization and ecological civilization are emphasized, as lack of any link may obstruct realization of a “wild China”. As an important content in the overall pattern of socialism with Chinese characteristics, enough stress must be laid on ecological civilization. If ecological civilization construction is not intensified, construction of material civilization, spiritual civilization, political civilization and social civilization will all trap into dilemma without a harmonious ecological environment.

Ecological civilization is a necessary need to practice the scientific outlook on development and build a harmonious society

The Third Plenary Session of the Sixteenth Central Committee of the Communist Party of China proposed “adhering to human orientation, establishing an overall, coordinated and sustainable outlook on development and promoting comprehensive development of the economic society and human being”. The so-called comprehensive development is not only to realize rapid development of economy, but also to put more emphasis on the common development of human being and the nature. Coordinated development is also to realize common development on the basis of emphasizing mutual coordination and mutual promotion of human being, the nature and the society. This fits in with the idea of ecological civilization. It is also proposed that construction of ecological civilization is aimed to realize overall, coordinated and sustainable development of human being, the society and the nature. In the meantime, in the “Decisions by the Central Committee of the CPC on Some Major Issues in Building a Harmonious Socialist Society” passed at

the Sixth Plenary Session of the Sixteenth Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, “harmonious society” was given new definition and requirement. That is, “the harmonious socialist society we are going to build is supposed to be one with democratic and government by law, fairness and justice, integrity and friendliness, vitality, stability and order and where human being and the nature get along with harmony”. Here, harmonious society not only emphasizes harmony within the society itself, but also emphasizes harmony between human being and the nature, which is exactly the fundamental objective and requirement of ecological civilization construction.

Obstructions and Predicament in China Ecological Civilization Construction

Weak consciousness of the public in ecology

As citizens have no enough knowledge in ecology or ecological civilization and have no idea about the importance of ecological civilization, this leads to their indifference in the obligation consciousness of ecological civilization. Quite a large number of citizens still have a mind lingering at the traditional industrial civilization stage. In their eyes, human being is entitled to obtaining, at will, the material substance required for their subsistence and development from the nature. As a kind of advanced animals with subjective initiative, human being can randomly change the nature, never taking into consideration of the endurance capacity of the nature. Moreover, motivated by profit, people merely concentrate on the current economic profit, excessively pursue highly rapid growth of economy and continuously intensify contradictions between human being and the nature. Even though we have encountered severe revenge from the nature, there are still a lot of people who have not yet paid enough attention to this and fail to establish, in due course, a civilized concept of ecological consciousness.

Unscientific economic development pattern

It is true that China has never put an end to the efforts to change the economic development pattern from the extensive pattern of economic development mode to the intensive pattern of economic development mode. However, as a matter of fact, it has never successfully fulfilled such change. There still exist the problems of low energy utilization rate, low scientific and technological content, serious energy waste and discharge of waste in China economic development, which have seriously damaged the environment. Each

year, there are still a lot of cases exposed on the network that discharge of waste water in chemical enterprises gives rise to serious pollution of local water source. The more than two hundred cancer villages that have aroused high attention from the world are almost the evil consequence of the high pollution of the environment caused by production of these enterprises. If we still fail to fundamentally reverse the economic growth pattern, such haze weather in Beijing as this year will still continue to appear.

Low scientific level and insufficient support in ecological civilization

Science and technology is a double-edged sword, which may not only become a weapon that destroys the ecology, but may also become a bodyguard that protects the ecology. Ever since the Second World War, application of science and technology has greatly enhanced the capacity of human being in changing the nature. Nevertheless, it is exactly due to the wide application of science and technology that the damage of human being to the ecological environment has never had precedent to go by. To a certain extent, science and technology has become an accomplice of human being in damaging the environment and violating the rule of ecological development. However, without doubt, construction of ecological civilization, likewise, needs powerful scientific strength as the support. Transition of economy, governing of ecological environment and development of environmental protection industry all raise new demand on science and technology. Development of ecological science and technology has provided us with more healthy green food, built for us a living environment more suitable for human subsistence and also provided technological guarantee for development of the ecological environment. Nonetheless, large deficiency still exists in the core technology in some high technological areas. This requires us to import such core technology from overseas, which adds to the cost in China ecological civilization construction and raises new demand on realization of the objective of ecological development.

Incomplete ecological protection system

Incompleteness of China ecological system development is mainly reflected in the following three aspects. Firstly, there are few policies or norms about maneuverability of ecological civilization construction. Among all the relevant laws and regulations that have been formulated currently regarding protection of ecological environment and construction of ecological civilization, a large

majority are some instructional or programmatic documents and laws and regulations, which are vague and general, lacking specific instruction or maneuverability, and are difficult to be carried out or implemented. Secondly, relevant laws about ecological civilization are incomplete. Quite a lot of legal documents have related provisions on environmental protection and ecological civilization. However, most of these legal documents are extended from the norms of economic development or social development and few of them are pertinently promulgated as special laws for construction of ecological civilization. This makes construction of ecological civilization deficient of legal basis. Thirdly, relevant laws and regulations regarding ecological civilization are deficient of powerful implementation strength. Although relevant laws have strict provisions on environmental protection, there are still some citizens and even some local governments who fail to put relevant legal provisions into practice. The phenomenon of local protection is serious and they even cover up and tolerate the violation behaviors of local enterprises, which becomes the extremely great obstruction in construction of ecological civilization.

Measures to Promote China Ecological Civilization Construction

There is the need for us to face positively up with the obstruction and dilemma encountered in construction of China ecological civilization, take effective measures to resolve the above problems and enable construction of China ecological construction to fall into place and to really realize a “wild China”.

Strengthening publicity and education among citizens and assisting them in setting up a concept of ecological civilization

Thinking is the premise of behavior. Whether the citizens have the qualification to set up a scientific concept of ecological civilization is the necessary condition for construction of ecological civilization. Thus, it is necessary to strengthen publicity and education of ecological knowledge among citizens and assist them set up a scientific concept of ecology. First of all, it is necessary to popularize scientific knowledge in ecology. Ecological science is an important component part of modern science and knowledge in ecological science is the basis for citizens to set up a scientific concept of ecological civilization. Only when people have a clear idea about the notion of ecological culture and ecological rule, is it possible for them to know how to deal with the relations between human being and the ecology.

Thus, the top priority is to conduct ecological culture education among citizens. Then, it is necessary to cultivate people's obligation consciousness of ecology. In order to cultivate people's obligation consciousness of ecology, it is necessary to let them bear in mind that we only have one earth and our ecological environment has been damaged and torn into pieces in the progress of the great industrialization. Thus, if we no longer pay attention to protection of our ecological environment, we will be doomed to encounter a disaster that makes us unable to survive. It is not an issue of an individual to set up such crisis consciousness in the public and to let everyone come to this consciousness. Instead, it depends on the common efforts of all to learn to show respect to the nature and to get along with the nature in harmony.

Vigorously developing ecological industry and accelerating change of the production mode

The two major contradictions between the current economic development and ecological protection are the contradiction between expansion of the economic aggregate and finiteness of natural resources and relatively low production rate of natural resources and the contradiction between rapid growth of economy and finiteness of environmental capacity and relatively low utilization rate of environmental capacity. In order to settle these two contradictions, it is a must to implement ecological industrialization and to begin with optimization of industrial structure and vigorous development of circular economy. On one hand, it is to continue to optimize the industrial structure. The key is to develop renewable energy sources industry and energy conservation and environment protection industry so as to alleviate the contradiction of too high energy consumption in China. It is also necessary to direct China enterprises to enlarge investment in science and technology, produce high-end products with high content of science and technology and low environmental pollution and to put forth efforts to change the current pattern in which China industries are mainly low-end ones with low labor intensive and low scientific and technological content. In the meantime, it is to enlarge investment in the tertiary industry and encourage development of the tertiary industry with Chinese characteristics. On the other hand, it is necessary to vigorously develop circular economy and change the development mode of economy. Development of circular economy is the basic way out to realize sustainable economic development, which is based on the rules of 3R, namely, "reducing, reusing and recycling". The raw materials should be used repeatedly and circularly for several times to

form the circular flow of resource – product – renewable resource and to reduce, up to the hilt, consumption of resources and pollution of the environment. At the same time, it is necessary to consolidate scientific and technological innovation and realize development of circular pattern industry, circular pattern agriculture and circular pattern service industry. In terms of changing the economic development mode, it is necessary to change to the mode with low input of raw materials and energy, high yield of products and low pollution of the environment, so as to realize the intensive pattern development of economy.

Vigorously carrying out independent and innovative strategy and providing scientific and technological support for construction of ecological civilization

Construction of ecological civilization needs advanced science and technology as the support and both development of circular economy and realization of the change of production means also need advanced ecological science and technology. Development of green industry is the strategic choice to protect and utilize ecological resources and is also the basic project to promote construction of ecological civilization. This requires us to speed up research and development of new technology and new products with energy conservation and emission reduction, accelerate construction of the supporting platform for new technology with energy conservation and emission reduction and explore and innovate credit management mode and provide, in due course, multiple financial services. Thus, we need to enlarge investment in advanced ecological scientific and technological research and development, enhance core science and technology required for construction of ecological civilization, reduce dependence on oversea technology, realize independence of ecological science and technology, break through monopoly of advanced oversea science and technology and provide a good scientific and technological support for construction of China ecological civilization.

Establishing and improving relevant system and laws and regulations about ecological civilization

The most vigorous guarantee to construct ecological civilization is system guarantee and legal guarantee, but this link is relatively fragile in the process of construction of China ecological civilization. System construction of China ecological civilization has the following disadvantages in different fields. In the political field, the political consciousness of ecology is low; political mechanism of ecology is deficient

and political supervision on ecology is inadequate. In terms of policy, industrial policy is laggard, policy regarding ecological consumption is deficient and social public participation is insufficient. In terms of law, the legal system is still open for improvement, judicial adjudication is open to be strengthened and environmental law enforcement is even not complete. All these disadvantages are an important reason why it is difficult for construction of China ecological civilization to gain substantial progress. Deficiency of ecological civilization in legal norm or legal supervision in the political field causes a lot of local governments to still hold a supporting attitude towards development of enterprises with high consumption of energy for consideration of the rapid increase of GDP. As a result of deficiency in supervision on ecological civilization, quite a large number of enterprises still discharge a huge amount of waste water and waste gas regardless of protection of the environment. As a result of deficiency in compulsory constraint on ecological protection law, quite a large number of enterprises refuse to implement the environmental protection standard carried out by the nation in order to reduce the costs. This seriously influences construction of China ecological civilization and brings about more serious damage to our ecological environment. Therefore, it is a must to strengthen relevant legislation and law enforcement strength and give strict attack on those behaviors that violate relevant regulations and relevant laws.

In one word, ecological civilization is an important expression of the comprehensive national strength of a country. It relates to the health and happiness of the people, relates to the healthy and sustainable development of the national economy and relates to successful building of a well-off society. What we expect is development with mutual coordination of economic development and ecological environment. At the time when we expect improvement of the material life level, we also expect a healthy and benign ecology to accompany with us instead of worrying every day about the issues of food security, impurity imbuing in the air and pollution of the drinking water by the chemical substances. All this requires the common efforts of those holding power and the people to build a beautiful homeland for our descendants and ourselves.

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