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UIBE co-organizes the International Conference on the Low Carbon Economy, together with Peking University and Japan's Nagoya University.

Climate change is no longer a contentious issue, the issue is now firmly at the forefront of many debates taking place at the highest level. Last week a conference on the Low-Carbon Economy was held by several Universities from China and Japan, including ministries. Many experts, from Japan, China, and Germany, were brought together to collaborate and



discuss relevant issues at the regional bilateral level.

The list of attendees at the International Conference on the Low Carbon Economy – Actions and Cooperation, was certainly impressive: UIBE (the University of International Business & Economics) and its prestigious SITE (School of International Trade & Economics) program; Peking University; Tsinghua University; China's Ministry of Environment Protection and Ministry of Education; Japan's University of Nagoya; the Beijing Office of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science; Japan's Ministry of Global Environment; expert Professors from not only China

and Japan but also Australia and Germany.

UIBE, along with Peking University and Tsinghua University, is one of the top Universities in China;



UIBE specializes in issues of International Trade, Economics, Business, Law, and Finance.

Whether it's the United Nations or last week's Beijing Conference on the low carbon economy, there is no such thing as too small an effort. Simply put, all efforts are welcome. It is such efforts which combined with others say in Copenhagen in December which will make tangible differences across our environmental landscapes, it is such efforts that will usher in a new age of cross-border agreements to share and act rather than more delays, it is such efforts that will finally build consensus among international partners and act with determination. Or tomorrow, there will no longer be efforts to be had.

The international environmental policy debate has become a vital economic problem. The pursuit of the Low Carbon Economy is exposing the problem of economic imbalances existing between countries. Indeed it's not easy, for despite policy-makers having finally grasped the importance of the issue of global warming, there remain practical problems, namely surrounding the issue of investments and technology transfer.

Specifically, during this cross-border conference



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between two of the largest economies in the world, China and Japan, the detailed mechanics necessary



to address this problem were put in place, and partnerships created. This is more than just about the old debate of the responsibilities existing between developed and developing nations, it's about reviewing our models and acting to build new ones that work at finding solutions today. China and Japan understand that by working together they can succeed. Just as European countries have done. And in fact Germany was present with a case study. Developed/developing nation partnerships are the key.

President Hamaguchi of Nagoya University commented that "Japan has a rich experiences in environmental protection and high level technologies for carbon reduction. Therefore there are many reasons for Japan and China to cooperate in dealing with climate change issues as well as economic cooperation."

The president of UIBE, Shi Jianjun reinforced the importance of the conference, "in finding solutions quickly," he also pointed out that everyone can act at their own level, "UIBE has taken real actions in promoting the low carbon economy at the University level: our water is recycled and heated thanks to solar panels, which also serve to light the campus; the whole campus has become engaged in building a positive image, UIBE's students learn from seeing our actions."

China's Vice-Minister of Environmental Protection added, "there are new challenges to the economic growth model," and that, "this was a necessary road, it is necessary for China to guarantee a sound energy policy as China's energy consumption grows rapidly over the next 20 years."

Taking place over two days, the conference was broken down into four themes: theory, targets, and development policies for the low-carbon economies; country studies; actions; and experience exchange. Several workshops were organized where participants from China Japan were able to exchange ideas and work on



finding solutions to problems.

The issue of investment and technology transfer was one of the important themes of the discussion. Aside from stating what everyone already knows, that the world is facing dire consequences if we don't act now, Professor. Dai Yande from China's National Development and Reform Commission discussed an impasse which needs to be addressed, "we must achieve low emissions while developing, yet while we have become the number 1 polluter in the world we have many regions which are not developed yet," he continued, "what we need is transfer of technology from the west."

Thomas Gries from the University of Paderborn in



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Germany covered the case of Germany, and the governments policies of implementation. “In Germany



we have all the necessary technologies, the problem is that they have a price, and the implementation policies are important, the government in Germany has applied a cocktail of solutions to pay, a mixture of eco-tax, subsidies, and incentives necessary to increase social awareness.”

Professor Ross Garnaut, from the University of Melbourne, in his talk “China and the Transition to a Low Carbon National Economy,” mentioned that “China’s domestic policies are not that well-known outside of China, it needs to enter into international agreements to do what it has already done,” he also mentioned that “advanced countries need to provide more support and technology to China.”

The conference clearly outlined the existence of the importance of finding coordinated solutions for implementing the Low Carbon Economy, however, “clearly no country can act alone in this,” said Professor Okamoto from Kyushu International University, while at the same time it is important for nations to addressing practical issues such as access to technology and financing.

Article provided by UIBE’s Director of International Marketing and Communications: Alex Goldsborough