

<<通向可持续发展的亚洲>>

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前言

Since the 1960s, the ongoing fast growth in Asia has created the so-called "Asian Miracle", and hence the "Asian Development Model". However, this development model is now confronted with new challenges: q) Some Asian countries are losing their comparative advantages. @ This model has largely been achieved at the expense of resources and the environment, exacerbating conflicts between economic development and environmental protection in Asia. @ Asian countries are faced with many global issues such as climate change. The exterior environment for Asia has undergone significant changes since it suffered the Asian financial turmoil in 1997 and the global financial crisis in 2008. Fending off trade protectionism, boosting domestic demands and fostering new growth areas have become the top priorities for the Asian countries. For the Asian Development Model to maintain sustainable growth in the face of current and future challenges, it is critical to introduce innovations for the transition to a green development model. Given these challenges, the Project of Sustainable Development in Asia (SDA) was approved by the Association of Academies of Sciences in Asia (AASA) in August 2007 and formally launched in February 2008. It aims to bring together the Academies of Sciences in Asia to address the common issues on sustainable development of the region, including sustainable energy development, sustainable use of resources, environmental protection, climate change, cultural and social sustainability, and ultimately to provide decision-making advice and policy recommendations for the government agencies in Asia and relevant international or regional organizations. This project was initiated by AASA, involving the member academies under AASA. Since the inception of the project, it has organized four international workshops, such as the First Workshop of AASA project of Sustainable Development in Asia (February 2008, Beijing, China) , Workshop on Sustainable Energy Development in Asia (November 2008, Beijing, China) , Workshop on Environment and Resources in Asia (September 2009, Izmir, Turkey) , and Workshop on Agricultural Culture and Sustainable Development in Asia (August 2009, Beijing, China) . The SDA project conducted studies through thematic research, synthesis research and consultancy under the joint funding of AASA, IAC, IAP and member academies of AASA.

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内容概要

This series of books are the output of the research project called “ Sustainable Development in Asia (SDA) ” , which was initiated by the Association of Academies of Sciences in Asia (AASA). They are comprised of one synthesis report, which entitled “ Towards a Sustainable Asia: Green Transition and Innovation ” , and four thematic reports on natural resources, energy, the environment and climate change, and culture from particular perspectives of agriculture. They aim to: 1) investigate common sustainability issues faced by all Asian countries, including population increase, poverty alleviation, pollution control, ecological restoration, as well as regional problems, such as water shortage in West and Central Asia, energy security in Northeast Asia, development model & transformation in East Asia; 2) analyze and summarize of best practices towards sustainable development in Asia; 3) bring forward suggestions and policy options for promoting green transition, system innovation and sustainable development of Asia. With best practice guidelines for a sustainable Asia, this series of reports, for the first time systematically address the common challenges and regional problems in regard to Asia ’ s natural resources use, pollution reduction and climate protection, sustainable energy development, and innovations for environment-friendly and culture-compatible agriculture. They will provide handy and useful information to researchers, government policy makers and the general public who have concerns about Asia ’ s sustainable development. AASA is a scientific and technological organization in Asia, established in 2000, comprising of 26 member academies all over Asia. Its vision is to provide a forum for the discussion of all issues relevant to science and technology development and its application on national level within Asia.

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Through the above-mentioned theories and empirical study, we can generally reach the following conclusions:

(1) The relation between environment and development follows an evolution pattern in order of three inverted U-shaped curves. On a long term basis, with economic growth, technology change and policy incentives, the environmental impact generally follows a pattern of evolution from a strong inverted U-shaped curve of environmental impact intensity, to an inverted U-shaped curve of per capita environmental impact and to an inverted U-shaped curve of the total environmental impact, which is also the internal requirement of environmental sustainability. Due to the limited data availability and quality, this conclusion has just been partially proved by the empirical research on the relevant environmental indicators of China, other major economies in Asia and even in the world (Chen et al., 2010; Liu et al., 2008; CAS Sustainable Development Strategy Study Group, 2009).

(2) The evolution process of environmental impact can be divided into four stages and these stages are subject to different drivers. Based on the peak values of three inverted U-shaped curves, we can divide the evolution process into four stages: pre-peak or materialization stage of environmental impact intensity, stage between peak of environmental impact intensity and that of per capita environmental impact, stage between peak of per capita environmental impact and that of total environmental impact, and stage of steady declining of total environmental impact. When the peak of per capita environmental impact coincides with that of the total environmental impact, the above four stages will then be changed into three stages, which can also be seen as an exceptional case of the four stages. In general, the peak of environmental impact intensity is easier to be transcended compared to that of the total environmental impact.

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