



UNITED STATES
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CHINA

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FY 2009 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE GOALS

The United States Mission engages with China both as a donor and as a partner in promoting sustainable, positive change within the country, and in its regional and worldwide interactions. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)'s Regional Development Mission for Asia manages programs across several sectors in keeping with legislative earmarks and provisions. United States Government (USG) priorities are to work through non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities, and other partners to promote the rule of law and human rights and encourage effective action on environmental and health issues. This includes partnering with China to promote clean energy and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; improving environmental law and environmental governance; strengthening environmental due diligence among national agencies and the private sector and reducing China's environmental footprint; supporting China's efforts to develop a legal system for fair, participatory, and transparent governance; preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS and multi-drug resistant tuberculosis; strengthening surveillance for avian influenza; and preserving cultural traditions and promoting sustainable development and environmental conservation among ethnic Tibetans. The Department of State's Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) manages a program focused on civil society that is reported on within DRL's separate performance publication.

All activities are designed to promote transparency, citizen participation, and good governance. Several advances were made during FY 2009 in fostering greater citizen input into government decision making. For example, HIV/AIDS activities facilitated the acceptance of community organization members as subject-matter specialists in formal provincial government planning processes. Water programs assisted a local government to gain better understanding of consumer demand for water and improved operations by developing a process to engage stakeholders in planning water supply systems. There has been an increased level of participation and partnership between local Tibetan communities and government agencies with respect to program design and implementation. Rule-of-law programs successfully launched legal clinics providing free services to underserved and marginalized populations, an initiative that might have been deemed illegal had it taken place three years ago.

HIGHLIGHTS BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

Economic Growth: Protecting the Environment

China's rapid economic expansion has led to severe environmental problems, many of which have transnational or global impacts. The Mission focuses on strengthening policies, practices, and capacities for mitigating GHG emissions, strengthening environmental law, and addressing the illegal trade in timber and wildlife products.

Based on a comprehensive regional assessment completed in FY 2007, the Mission identified three areas where it can deliver maximum returns on investment in terms of GHG reductions: energy-saving compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), cleaner coal technologies and practices, and mobilizing investments in clean energy.

The huge demand for timber and wildlife products in China is an important driver for forest exploitation and the associated illegal trade in timber and endangered species throughout Asia. China is the largest importer of forest products after the United States, and much of China's imports originate from countries with weak forest governance systems. China is also the largest importer of illegal wildlife parts and products, especially those derived from endangered animal and plant species.

The Mission's work in China with respect to biodiversity protection focuses on engaging the country to play a stronger international role in combating illegal logging and wildlife trafficking. These efforts seek to support the development of timber legality verification systems, promote responsible timber purchasing policies and practice, raise awareness of illegal wildlife trafficking to help protect threatened species, strengthen wildlife law enforcement capacities, and engage China in regional networks to share knowledge and increase regional cooperation.

Key achievements during FY 2009 included:

- Scaling up GHG emissions reductions, with nearly 22,500 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent avoided, nearly \$3.8 million saved through energy saving and emissions reduction measures, and more than 3,300 people trained from over 300 institutions in global climate change, environmental law enforcement, and cleaner production policies.
- Launching an environment health and safety training center, helping to establish a provincial-level agreement on emissions trading, developing and distributing 28 information tools and resources on ways to achieve energy savings in buildings, establishing a partnership to promote large-scale power sector energy efficiency programs at the provincial level, and building a nationwide network for young environmental lawyers and scholars that will enhance the training in environmental litigation and help build an active environmental bar across China.
- Working with lighting manufacturers in China to develop CFL bulb quality specifications, establish a product quality mark, and form a new association, the Asia Lighting Compact. Four manufacturers with major operations in China committed \$250,000 to fund the association's first two years of operation.
- Facilitating the World Bank and Chinese financial institutions commitment to finance major efficiency improvements in three coal-fired power plants that will result in a reduction of 11 million tons of carbon dioxide over the plants' lifetimes.

- Supporting the Indonesia-China-United States tri-lateral working group to promote legal and sustainable timber trade; hosting an international workshop on Forests, Markets, Policy, and Practice in Shanghai; training nearly 50 officers in anti-wildlife crime and enforcement; and hosting a Special Investigations Group Workshop on pangolins and big cats to share information on organized crime in the illegal trade in these animals.

Governing Justly and Democratically

Rule-of-law activities continued in FY 2009 through university partnerships that improve advocacy skills and provide clinical legal education to introduce ideas that support China's efforts to develop a legal system that encourages fair governance while also introducing critical reforms.

The program provides scholarships for Chinese students at two U.S. law schools. Graduates return to China as junior professors to sustain the program. The University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law, American University's Washington College of Law, China University of Political Science and Law, Zhejiang Gongshang University, and South China University of Technology are participating in the project.

The University of Massachusetts is working with Chinese judicial training colleges, legal educators, and provincial high courts to build the capacity of China's judiciary. The program is also designed to enhance Chinese citizens' trust in, knowledge of, and access to the legal system.

An American Bar Association rule-of-law initiative works with local institutions to increase criminal defendants' rights, improve the efficacy of their legal counsel, and promote fair criminal justice procedures.

The Asia Foundation's administrative law and procedures program works with law schools to make agencies and officials more transparent and equitable in their exercise of power.

Key achievements during FY 2009 included:

- Partner law schools built administrative law clinics into their regular university course system, prompted the Chinese Ministry of Education to adopt experiential education as a goal for higher education, created links between top Beijing schools and those in other provinces, and served to introduce interactive teaching methodologies and clinical structures in law schools. In a major policy shift, programs were allowed to work directly with Chinese judges and took some to the United States on a mediation techniques study tour, a new opportunity to engage directly with the Chinese judiciary and highlight U.S. techniques for dispute resolution.
- A new pilot program was approved by the Supreme People's Court in nine district level courts for issuing orders of protection in domestic violence cases.

Investing in People

Confronting HIV/AIDS

The Mission's HIV/AIDS program supports prevention of sexually transmitted diseases in 15 high HIV-burden provinces, with higher levels of resources targeted at Yunnan and Guangxi for the development of replicable local implementation models. The more intense efforts in these two provinces are structured around establishing a high quality Comprehensive Prevention Package (CPP). The prevention elements of the CPP are provided by local governments, NGOs,

community-based organizations (CBOs), and government-owned NGOs. In FY 2009, the Mission carried out a comprehensive review of the CPP model.

Prevention activities were conducted at methadone maintenance treatment centers and sentinel surveillance sites. Close to 800 condom outlets, targeting most-at-risk populations, were established in order to increase availability and accessibility of condoms.

The strategy in the past year has been to shift away from direct implementation support to provision of technical assistance for model replication and scale-up. The program has continued to develop and strengthen programs that ensure the continuum of prevention to care and treatment for injecting-drug users and female sex workers at sites in Yunnan and Guangxi. These sites serve as demonstration sites where strengthened Government of China (GOC) institutional care and treatment, and support to people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA) are woven into an integrated services package, which is being replicated by the GOC and Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (GFATM). The Mission successfully leveraged funding from the GOC and other donors to support project offices and staff.

The program continued to support the GOC and GFATM scale-up of the Essential Care Package (ECP) model. ECP is a comprehensive approach for providing quality care and support services to PLHA, including anti-retroviral adherence, home-based care and support, prophylaxis against opportunistic infections, regular anti-retroviral treatment follow-up services, clinical monitoring, and condom promotion.

The Mission's HIV program provides technical support to the GOC to improve the quality of the 100 percent Condom Use Program (CUP) by revising national guidelines, strengthening the capacity of implementing staff, and linking CUP with sexually-transmitted infection (STI) treatment, HIV testing, counseling, care, and treatment. The USG assists local partners to leverage condoms from GOC sources, including local government-supported HIV programs, and targets distribution of these supplies to the hardest-to-reach female sex workers and men who have sex with men. Government health officials from Vietnam, Laos, and program staff from Australia's International Development Agency's Tibet Office visited USAID program sites on study tours.

The Mission assisted the GOC to strengthen the three-tier health network services using home and community-based care and support, including income-generation activities for PLHA. Care included prophylaxis and management of opportunistic infections, follow-up services such as cluster differentiation for testing; condom promotion and referral services for tuberculosis, HIV, and Hepatitis C virus; prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV; and STI screening and treatment. This program was carried out in Anhui and Henan provinces. A pilot to improve anti-retroviral adherence was carried out in FY 2009 using directly-observed therapy. Anti-retroviral adherence counseling and support services were provided through rural volunteers and village doctors.

Water

The water and sanitation program creates and promotes innovative strategies for expanding and sustaining access to safe water services in China by facilitating adoption of good governance policies and practices that promote enhanced public participation, transparency, and accountability. The goal is for these strategies and approaches to be taken up by the Chinese Government and re-created in other areas of China, thus increasing impact.

Key achievements during FY 2009 included:

- In Jiangsu Province, assisting in developing an innovative process for engaging stakeholders in planning water supply systems that better address consumer demand and improve operating efficiency. The Jiangsu provincial government piloted this participatory planning methodology in Longgang Township in Yancheng City, and will replicate it in other towns as part of the \$150 million World Bank loan project to improve water distribution systems.
- In a twinning partnership between Yancheng China Water Company in Jiangsu Province and the Philippines Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, developing a customer feedback system on utility performance that serves as a model for other Chinese cities which contract for water services.
- In Shenzhen, a program working with the World Health Organization to scale up the use of water safety plans by utilities, and launching a twinning partnership between Shenzhen water utility and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to strengthen Shenzhen's customer outreach and water quality monitoring feedback system.

Improving Opportunities for Tibetans in China

The program improves Tibetan communities' access to education, vocational training, and health care, and assists in small enterprise development. Nomads are learning rangeland management, livestock development, and improved crop production. Activities support the preservation of Tibetan arts and cultural sites, and assist artisans in marketing their products.

Over the past year, nearly 20,000 schoolchildren, about half of them girls, benefited from projects for Tibetan primary schools. Programs supported school improvements at various Tibetan primary and secondary schools, including the construction of school dormitories at remote boarding schools; provision of library facilities, Tibetan-language books, and playground equipment to increase student attendance at new primary schools; and provision of basic supplies and equipment for teachers.

Improving teachers' qualifications, school administration, and educational materials became the key focus of the programs that resulted in 682 teachers trained this year. Trainees returned to their classes and developed new Tibetan-language course materials that led to better school curriculum and guidelines to benefit students. With U.S. support, the quality of education was improved through the publication of 21 new textbooks in Tibetan language, with over 42,680 books distributed. In addition, the program promoted educational opportunities in equivalent non-school-based settings such as libraries, where 399 students attended classes in job search strategies, basic literacy, local culture, and philosophy.

The program continued to provide scholarships to high school and college students in all areas of the Tibetan plateau. More than 350 scholarship candidates (48 percent of them female) were selected based on needs and academic performance.

In FY 2009, as part of an apprentice skills training program, about 8,633 unemployed youth, nomads, and artisans gained valuable on-the-job experience and received follow-on business training. New skills trainings were provided in furniture production, carpet and textile weaving, wool yarn spinning and natural dyed yarn production, cooking, metalwork, traditional leather handicraft, rug making, architecture, and decoration. Several graduates started their own small enterprises including restaurants, beauty salons, motorcycle repair shops, and several successfully

found jobs in hotels, restaurants, travel agencies, and traditional handicrafts, thereby increasing their income.

The program further assisted village-level businesses by building market linkages, developing marketing skills, and increasing market exposure. As a result of market testing in 2008 that identified Tibetan toys as highly-demanded products, Tibetan craftsmen began to receive training in production line concepts, and product costing and pricing. Their new skills enabled them to produce greater numbers of products more efficiently, at a lower cost per unit, and with more consistent quality; thereby increasing competitiveness through better calculating labor cost, production materials, and overhead.

The program continued to assist local handicraft centers to expand access to markets. Seven staff of the Drogenling Handicraft Center who received first hand “market readiness” experience and training in the United States and coastal China through study tours and shows have become a channel to connect domestic and overseas customers with local artisans, who then produce the right handicrafts to meet the demand. A new artisan center in the Shangri-la town in Yunnan was also established, following the successful case of a center in Lhasa.

Off-farm value chains for diversified commodities – including dairy, honey, walnut, and chicken – produced by rural Tibetan communities continued to grow as the program provided capacity building for both manufacturers and farmers. A yak direct-sale model illustrated how capacity had been expanded by establishing a working group and adopting more professional management standards and pricing practices. In addition, a public-private partnership was initiated with a pilot sale of packaged yak tail and hoof.

The support of cultural preservation activities this year expanded to proverb collection, Tibetan ancient scriptures and texts, ethnic Tibetan folk horn fiddle music, dance, and architectural restoration books, resulting in the distribution of 1,000 proverb collection books, 100 sets of 45 volume scriptures, 1,000 CDs of folk music, and 28,600 new cultural books to schools, universities, libraries, and departments. In addition, 12 significant Tibetan cultural heritage sites were restored with matching in-kind contributions from local communities.

In Yunnan, communities displayed effective leadership and coordination from the community co-management committees. The intervention had a positive sustainable impact on villagers by increasing local participation in grassland management. These participatory community-based grassland management model and multi-stakeholder approach were also adopted by the Hongyuan County Government, resulting in the development of a community grassland management and livestock development plan. In addition, biogas-digester units that produce methane for use as an alternative fuel source have reduced the amount of time women spend collecting firewood and allowed them to heat water for bathing, which has improved health and sanitation. These units have been very successful, and were cited as demonstration projects for a policy change recommendation to the provincial government and Ministry of Agriculture by the Sichuan Academy of Social Science.

In Shangri-la town, two community water supply systems and 83 solar energy panels were installed in two villages close to the Sangna Reservoir water source as part of Sangna watershed management. These solar water heaters were used to heat livestock fodder, which meant that the villages used less wood to heat water, relying instead on solar energy. This helped preserve the few forests left in this region, and reduced pollution from wood fires. In addition, through the water supply systems, water transmission and distribution was able to meet domestic needs, maintaining adequate hygiene standards and improving the quality of life. For instance, due to the new water supply systems,

female residents have noticed a marked decrease in the amount of time and labor normally expended in water collection and carrying, which frees up their time for other activities.

Since reforestation and the sustainable and balanced use of forest resources are key to the integrated management plan and a crosscutting strategy for watershed conservation, the program supported tree sapling planting, improved local forest regulation enforcement, and installed biogas units to meet increasing demand for energy and reduce pressure on supplies of firewood. In partnership with government agencies, including the Sangna Reservoir Management Bureau and Shangri-la County Environmental Protection Bureau, trash collection systems and receptacles were put into place and watershed community regulations established which provided a framework to enforce the management of the watershed. This watershed management activity was also supported in part by grants from New Zealand, Australia, and Germany.

About 25,000 Tibetans received training in natural resource management and environmental conservation. In the Three Great Rivers Source Region of Qinghai and the Tibetan Autonomous Region, which is the headwaters of the Yellow, Yangtze, and Mekong Rivers, an estimated 5,117 nomads received training. Environmental education was integrated into the primary school curriculum, through the use of local stories and cases, children-centered participatory teaching methods, and new environmental courses. This activity was also part of local awareness-raising activities among Tibetans and their children, designed as an effective strategy for long-term environmental conservation in the Tibetan area.