

The Relationship between China's Economic Development and the Protection of the Ecological Environment

Guan-Nan Xue

School of Economics and Management, Xidian University, Xi'an, 710071, China

Abstract: *Today, with the rapid economic development, ecological protection has become an important livelihood issue, and has become an important issue affecting China's sustainable development, economic stability and people's livelihood. With the rapid development of economy, China's environmental conditions are getting worse and worse, and air pollution is very serious. Over-cutting of forests and over-exploitation of mineral resources have brought real and more serious potential threats to human survival and development. This makes it necessary for us to make a reasonable choice between economic development and ecological protection.*

Key words: ecological protection; sustainable development

1. Ecological Environment Problems in China

The ecological environment problem refers to the phenomenon that the ecological balance has been destroyed, resulting in the serious imbalance of the structure and function of the ecosystem, thus threatening the survival and development of mankind. The prominent ecological environment problems are soil erosion, land desertification, forest and grassland resources reduction, biodiversity reduction and so on.

With the development of China's economy and the improvement of people's living standards, China is also facing more and more serious ecological environment problems. The current ecological problems in China are mainly manifested in:

- 1) Air pollution, harmful substances in the air and the increase of particulate dust seriously threaten people's health, especially in Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, the continuous occurrence of large areas of fog and haze.
- 2) Forest resources are scarce and vegetation coverage is low. In recent years, China's forest area has been greatly reduced, the amount of forest harvesting far exceeds the forest growth, and the phenomenon of indiscriminate logging, deforestation and reclamation is very serious
- 3) The area of soil erosion is large and the speed of land desertification is accelerating.
- 4) Serious shortage of water resources and uneven distribution of regions.
- 5) The underground water is overdrawn and the water level is dropping.
- 6) The pollution of rural ecological environment is serious, the pollution of township industry is serious, the use of fertilizer in rural farmland is increasing year by year, and the pollution in rural areas is aggravated by livestock and aquaculture.

2. Relationship between Protection of Ecological Environment and Economic Development

The relationship between economic development and environmental protection is in the final analysis the relationship between man and nature. The essence of solving environmental problems is how to deal with the relationship between man and nature, man and man, economic development and environmental protection. The relationship between man and nature is closely related to economic development and resources and environment from beginning to end. Practice has proved that we can correctly handle the relationship between environment and development, the two can promote each other, to achieve the coordinated development of economy and environment. Developing the economy and paying attention to protecting the environment has become the consensus of all mankind. It is the general trend of today's world development. At present, environmental resources have been regarded as an economic indicator. At this stage, China has entered a historical period of overall upsurge in social development. It is an urgent task for the Chinese people to explore the relationship between resources and environment and economic development.

China has achieved initial results in protecting the environment, but the environmental situation is still grim. The environmental problems in the industrialization process of developed countries in the last hundred years have been concentrated in China for more than 20 years, showing the characteristics of structural type, composite type and compression type. Environmental pollution and ecological destruction have caused enormous economic losses, endangered public health and public safety, affected social stability, and even damaged the international image. Protecting the ecological environment has become a top priority in the national economic life.

Nature is the cradle of all living things, including human beings. It is the basic condition for human survival and development. A good ecological environment is an important

foundation for the continuous development of productive forces and the continuous improvement of people's living quality. Harmony theory advocates healthy and moderate development, opposes the abuse of science and technology, and opposes the irreparable damage to the natural ecology. The development of the economy must not be at the expense of resources and environment, but for future generations. Efforts to maintain harmony between man and nature is a necessary condition for the harmonious development of economy.

To protect nature is to protect mankind, and to build nature is to benefit mankind. Therefore, we should cherish and protect nature, respect the laws of nature, and thoroughly change the extensive mode of growth at the cost of sacrificing the environment and destroying resources. Development can not damage the long-term interests in the immediate interests, and can not damage the overall interests with local development. For nature, we should not only talk about getting input but not talking about investment. To develop economy, we should fully consider the natural carrying capacity and bearing capacity, and establish and maintain the relationship between economic development and the relative balance of nature. This is an important feature of harmonious economic development.

There is a unity of opposites between environmental protection and economic development, which requires that economic development should not be neglected while protecting the environment. In the lower stage of economic development, the level of environmental pollution is also lower; in the stage of economic takeoff and manufacturing development, the consumption of resources exceeds the regeneration of resources, and the ecological environment begins to deteriorate. In the higher stage of economic development, the economic structure begins to change, pollution industries stop production or be transferred, the accumulation of economic development can be used to improve and control the environment. At the same time, people's environmental awareness has gradually increased with the development of civilization, and the environment has gradually improved.

It can be seen that economic development and environmental protection are the unity of opposites, the coordination and unity of the two manifested in two aspects: First, economic development should be conditioned by environmental protection. Logistics and energy flow in the natural environment system are the sources of logistics and energy flow in the economic system. The productivity of the environmental system (the transformation efficiency of material and energy) is the basis of social labor productivity and value added. Natural resources are the material basis for the existence and development of social economic activities. Contradictional movement is the motive force of sustainable development. Only when the environmental system continuously provides material and energy for the economic system, can economic growth become possible. Second, the protection of the ecological environment can not be separated from economic development. This is because good

environmental quality can only be achieved under the appropriate economic structure and economic order. Unsuitable economic structure and economic order will inevitably lead to overcultivation, overgrazing and fishing, resulting in ecological imbalance and resource depletion. At the same time, to control pollution and maintain a good environment requires technology and funds, which must rely on the support of economic strength.

Of course, there are also contradictions between the economy and the ecological environment, mainly manifested in the following aspects: economic growth has unlimited demand for resources, while the supply of natural resources and environmental productivity is limited; economic development will always bring about a certain degree of environmental pollution, and the control of the environment will always occupy a certain amount of resources, and to a certain extent will be affected. Sound economic development.

3. Measures and problems of ecological environment protection in China

The efforts made by the Chinese government in the field of ecological environmental protection have also yielded certain results, providing a guarantee for the further development of ecological environmental protection in China. However, we should also see that, for a long time, China's extensive economic development model, coupled with the system, management, capital and other issues, the deterioration of China's ecological environment has been quite serious.

China's environmental pollution and control work presents the following problems:

- 1) China's ecological environment protection shows imbalance. For example, although the southeast coastal areas are under great pressure of environmental pollution, the state invests heavily and the degree of control is high. Pollution has been restrained to a certain extent. However, the environmental pollution pressure in the western region is small, but the intensity of governance is also poor, and the environmental pollution is also very serious.
- 2) The situation of environmental pollution and ecological destruction has not changed in quite a few areas of China, and some of them are even aggravating. In some areas, problems such as the deterioration of ecological environment, desertification of land, intensification of soil erosion and sharp decrease of biodiversity are still outstanding.
- 3) Natural disasters caused by ecological pollution and ecological environment deterioration have caused serious economic losses to the people. The high economic losses caused by the ecological environment problems have gradually become the "bottleneck" restricting the modernization drive.

4. Policy Suggestion

China is a developing country. In the final analysis, solving environmental problems depends on development. To eradicate poverty and improve people's living standards, China must unswervingly put economic development in the first place. All kinds of work should be carried out around the center of economic construction. The improvement of social productive forces, the enhancement of comprehensive national strength, the improvement of people's living standards and population quality, the effective utilization of resources, and the protection of environment and ecology all depend on economic development. However, economic development can not be at the expense of the environment, can not take the road of pollution first and then control, the lessons of various countries in this regard are extremely profound. Therefore, correctly handling the relationship between economic development and environmental protection, taking the road of sustainable development, maintaining the coordinated development of economy, society and environment is the only way for China's development.

At present, in order to do a better job in saving energy and resources and protecting the ecological environment, efforts should be made in the following aspects:

First, we must persist in putting energy conservation and emission reduction in a more prominent and more important position, and constantly intensify our efforts. In the process of maintaining growth, we must not neglect energy conservation and emission reduction, and constantly improve policy measures and working mechanisms to effectively implement the comprehensive work programme of energy conservation and emission reduction. We should continue to focus on energy saving and emission reduction key projects and water pollution control in key river basins. We should vigorously develop energy-saving and environmental protection industries, rely on major projects, promote the use of new energy-saving and environmental protection technologies, new processes and new products, and promote the recycling of mineral resources and water resources and the utilization of garbage resources. In accordance with the principles of "who pollutes, who governs, who invests, who benefits", enterprises should be urged to carry out pollution control, ecological restoration and environmental protection. We will continue to carry out extensive and in-depth national action on energy conservation and emission reduction, and vigorously promote a healthy, civilized, energy-saving and environmental protection mode of production.

Second, we must unswervingly accelerate the transformation of the mode of economic development and promote the optimization and upgrading of industrial structure. We should further implement the adjustment and revitalization plan for key industries, vigorously promote the integration of informatization and industrialization, and accelerate the development of modern energy industry and comprehensive transportation system. Comprehensive measures should be taken to promote the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries and formulate and implement plans and policies for the development of new industries. We should

improve the service industry development policy, support the development of key areas and weak links in the service industry, and support the formation of a service-oriented industrial structure in large cities with conditions.

Third, we must take independent innovation as the central link of structural adjustment and transformation of development mode. While continuing to introduce advanced technology from other countries, enterprises should shift their foothold to independent innovation. We should speed up the implementation of major scientific and technological projects, further adjust the investment structure of scientific and technological funds, ensure that major scientific and technological funds are in place in time and in full, give full play to the leading role of key enterprises in the industry, strengthen the integration of production, learning and research, and encourage small and medium-sized scientific and technological enterprises to participate in the implementation of major special projects. We should focus on energy conservation and emission reduction, environmental protection, technological transformation and industrial upgrading, improving people's livelihood and other key areas, concentrate on factor resources, strive to break through a number of key technologies to support economic and social development, and enhance the core competitiveness of enterprises. We should strengthen basic research and Research on cutting-edge technologies, build a number of open and shared scientific and technological infrastructure and platforms, strengthen the building of the contingent of talented people, and enhance the ability of sustained scientific and technological innovation. We will continue to support the industrialization and large-scale application of scientific and technological achievements and promote the development of high-tech industrial clusters and special industrial bases. We should develop a culture of innovation, strengthen the protection of intellectual property rights, and create a favorable environment for the whole society to jointly promote independent innovation.

5. Epilogue

Coordinating the relationship between ecological environment protection and economic development, adopting appropriate countermeasures, developing green economy and circular economy has become the symbol of China in the new century; promoting economic restructuring with environmental protection has become an inevitable trend of economic development. Protecting the environment means protecting the productive forces and improving the environment is to develop the productive forces. To coordinate the relationship between environment and economy and to build a modern civilization in which man and nature live in harmony is the main problem in adhering to the basic national policy of protecting the environment in China. China will continue to implement the concepts of scientific outlook on development, green GDP, sustainable development and circular economy in its future development, so as to keep pace with the protection of the ecological environment and economic development.

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