





# Climate change is a China's national security issue? A big controversy in China

# Who are the supporters?

----The supporters are primarily from environmental and climate community.

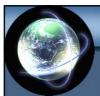
----Examples:

Qu Geping (the author of the book *Caring about China's Ecological Security*, 2004);

Xie Zhenhua (the editor-in-chief of the book China National Report on Environmental Security Strategies, 2005);

Wang Jinnan(the author of the book Environmental Security Management: Assessment and Early Warninig, 2007)

Zhang Haidong and Luoyong( co-authors of article "Impacts of Meteorological Disaster and Climate Change on National Security" in Advances in Climate Change Research, Issue 2, 2006.)



In addition, some military people also join this group. For example, General(retired) Xiong Guangkai, Chairman of the China Institute for International and Strategic Studies (CIISS) argues that climate security should be one part of China's security (See his paper "Current China's Security Policy" in International Strategic Studies, Issue 4, 2008)

Their common voice: climate change is China's national security issue because climate change is a non-traditional threat to China. However, they didn't explain in what way and to what extent climate change poses a threat to China's national security.



# Who are the opponents?

----The opponents come mainly from economic and international relationship communities.

Typical arguments

# Argument 1

The impact of Climate change on China is exagerated for two reasons. One is the lack of accurate data of GDP losses incurred by climate change in China. The other is special interests of some sectors. (Mao Yushi, "Global Warming and Human Being's Adaptability, *Green Leaf*, Issue 8, 2008")

### **Argument 2**

This is another version of "China climate threat" in the west, aimed at postponing China's economic development. We should guard against the advocacy. (Guarding Against the Surprise Attack on China from "Climate Terrorism", Global Times, April 24, 2007)



Chinese government position on climate change and national Security:

Self- contradiction

·After the cold war, the international situation has become characterized by relaxed international relations and growing world economy. Under the new historical conditions, the meaning of the security concept has evolved to be multifold with its contents extending from military and political to economic, science and technology, environment, culture and many other areas.

From China's Position Paper on the New Security Concept (July 31, 2002)

China's basic goals and tasks in maintaining national security are: l. To stop separation and promote reunification, guard against and resist aggression, and defend national sovereignty, territorial integrity and maritime rights and interests.

2. To safeguard the interests of national development, promote economic and social development in an all-round, coordinated and sustainable way and steadil increase the overall national strength.

China's National Defense in 2004

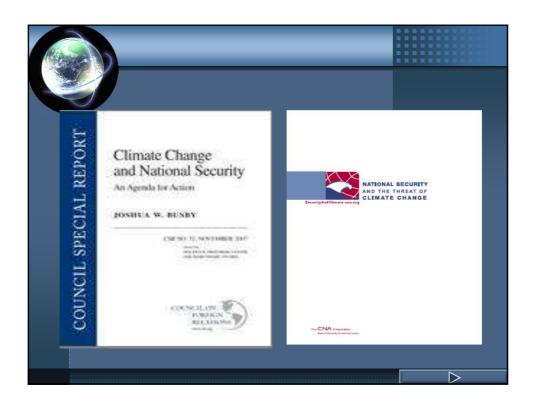




- ♦ Climate change solutions required the concerted effort of the international community. Discussing the issue in the Security Council would not help countries in their efforts, and it would be hard for the Council to assist developing countries affected by climate change to find more effective adaptations.
- ◆ Discussions on climate change should be conducted within the framework that allowed participation by all parties. The developing countries believed that the Security Council did not have expertise and did not allow extensive participation in decision-making. It would not help produce widely acceptable proposals.

---Statement by H.E. Ambassador LIU Zhenmin, Deputy Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations, at the Open Debate of the <u>Security Council</u> on <u>the impact of climate change on security 17 April 2007</u>

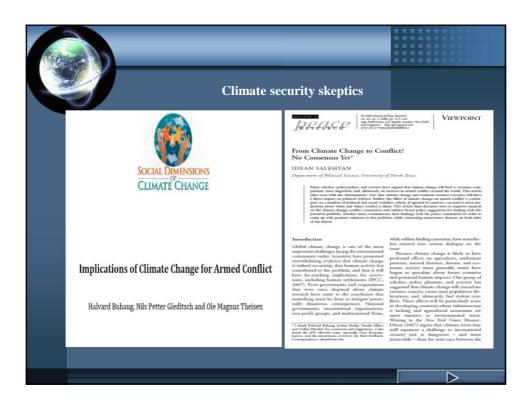


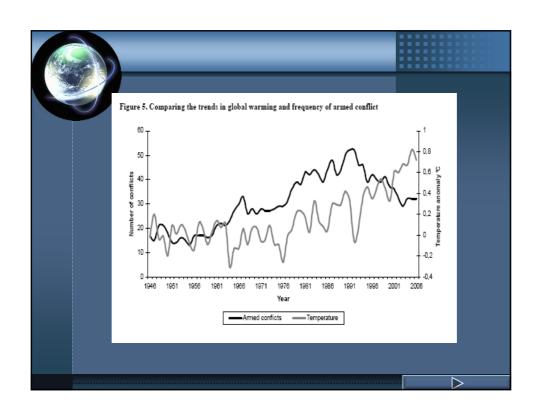


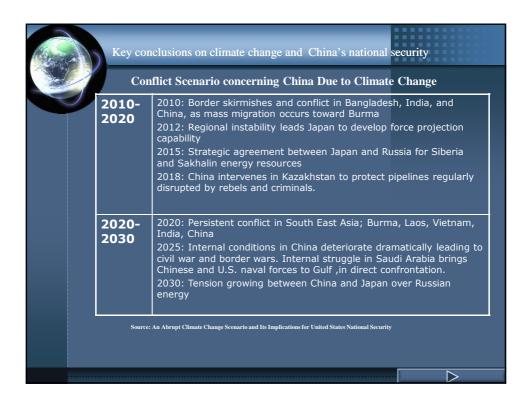


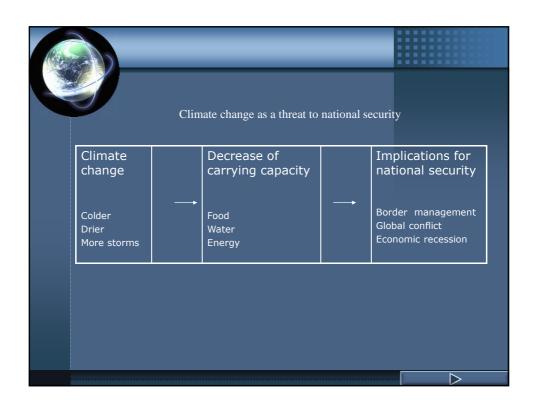




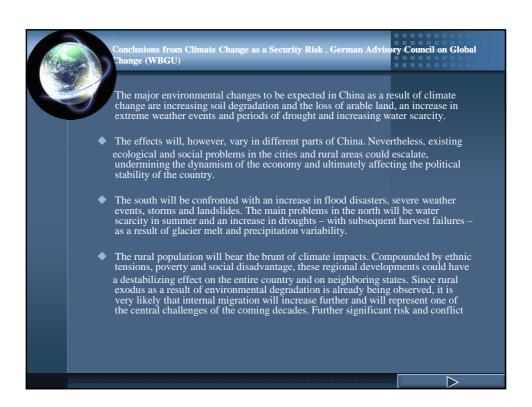


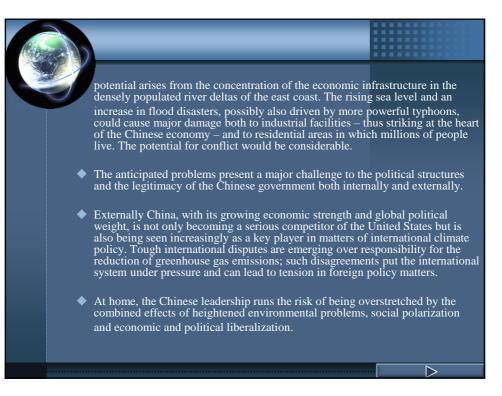


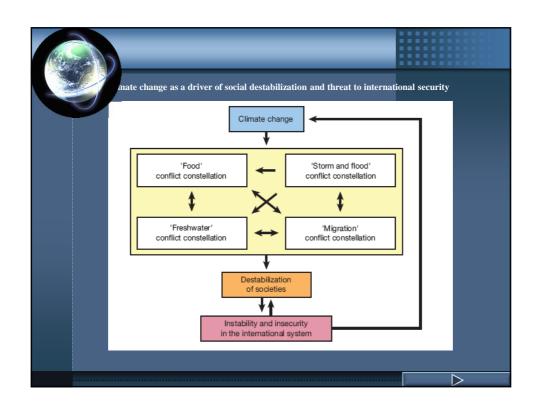


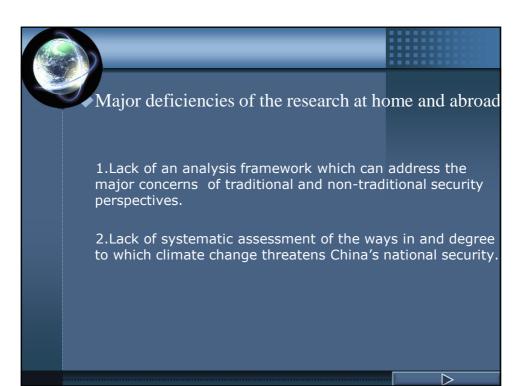


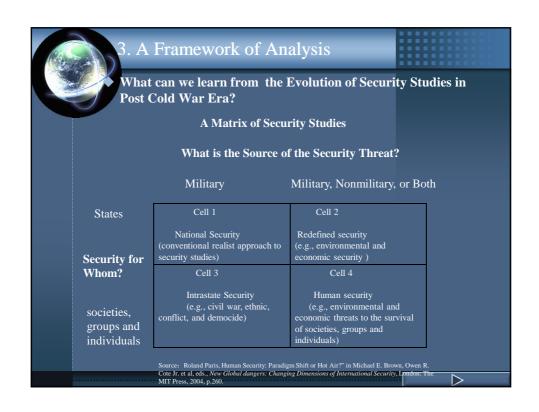
	Scenario 1 Expected Climate Change	Scenario 2 Severe Climate Change	Scenario 3 Catastrophic Climate Change
Summary of climate change assumptions	Average 1.3° C warming .23 meters of sea level rise Approximately 30 year time frame	Average 2.6° C warming .52 meters of sea level rise Approximately 30 year time frame	Average 5.6° C warming • 2.0 meters of sea level rise • Approximately 100 year time fram
Key selected national security implications based on scenario assumptions	China's carbon emissions will reinforce or accelerate several existing domestic environmental Challenges—ranging from desertification to water shortages to the deterioration of air quality in urban areas—as well as become the primary driver of global climate change itself, there will be escalating pressure on China to be a "responsible stakeholder" as its economic and political strength grow and as it surpasses the United States as the world's largest carbon emitter in the near future. Furthermore, mounting global awareness about the threats posed by climate change—and the harm it is inflicting on developing countries in which China is seeking to expand its political and economic influence—will make it difficult for China to remain outside of a U.Ssupported post-Kytot regulatory Framework on climate change without severely damaging its international standing.	Rising sea levels and accentuated storm systems will threaten China's industrialized coastal regions.  Chinese economic growth will suffer as a result of the accelerated loss of land fertility due to salinization of river deltas, compounding shortages of arable land lost to urbanization.  Decreased rainfall will accelerate China's already critical shortage of water, not only for drinking but also for industrial purposes. This will also cancel out the promised effects of massive hydro-engineering projects such as the Three Gorges Dam.  There will be significant environmental pressures arguing for an inland shift of economic activity.  China will also find itself in direct confrontation with Japan and even the United States over access to fish, at a time when all major fisheries will likely have crashed as the result of today's unsustainable fishing practices, combined with the ongoing, worldwide decimation of wetlands.  All this can place tremendous additional pressure on the national concept and on the Chinese political system.	Northern Eurasian stability could also be substantially affected by China's need to resettle many tens, even hundreds, of mill from its flooding southern coasts surge, se level rise in the range of 2 meters could al have "very large" effects on a number of other states, including China and India. Considering all factors—land area, urban population, etc.—the most affected countr In addition to the above, would be Guyans Surinam, and Mauritania. Substantial imp would also occur in Gambia, Liberia, Sen Guinea, Thaliand, Burma, Indonesia, Taiv Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. The above rise in sea levels—together wit changed climate, agricultural disruptions famines, spread of disease, water scarcity, severe storm danage—will not occur in a world that is otherwise sustainable and resilient.













Traditional security approach can not catch up with the new times, unable to address the new nonmilitary threats to national and international security.

- ◆ Human security (environmental, personal, and physical security, economic security, social security, political security, and cultural security) is so vague that it verges on meaninglessness and consequently offers little practical guidance to academics, or to policy makers who must prioritize among competing policy goals.
- ◆ The more feasible way is to discuss how to redefine national security in a new context which can address the major concerns of both traditional security approach and human security approach?



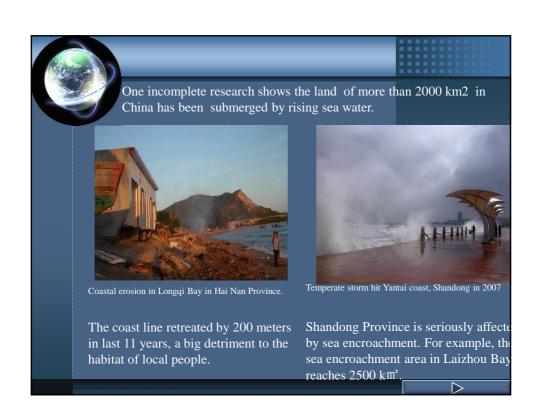
# How to define a national security threat to China?

China's national security issues are not inherently military, economic, or environmental. Any problem that can meet one of the following criteria should be considered as a China's national security issue:

- 1) threatens territory integrity of a state,
- 2) threatens drastically to degrade the quality of life for inhabitants of a state,
- 3) threatens significantly to narrow the range of policy choices available to the government of a state, or
- 4) threatens to cause serious political and social instability,
- 5) threatens the functioning of key national defense projects or key national projects of strategic importance.

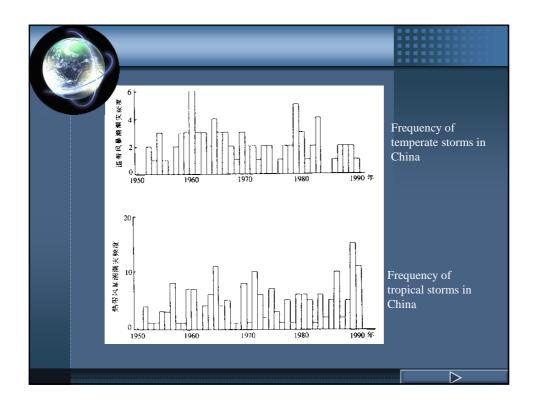


# 4. How does climate change threaten China' national security? 4.1 Sea level rise is submerging China's territory. ...cording to 2009Sea Level Report of SOA • The average increase in sea level has been about 2.6 millimeter per year in the past 30 years, 0.8 millimeter higher than the world's average. • The sea level along China's coastal areas will rise 0.13 meter in the next three decades. • Global warming is the major contributor to the rise of sea level. • Some research shows a area of 5500 km2 in Guangdong and half of Tianjin City will be inundated if the sea level along China's coastal areas rises 0.30 meter and no further

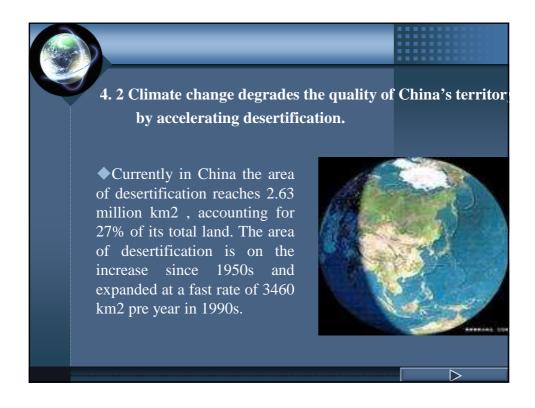
















## 总理又坐在村民家的炕头:决不能让民勤从地图上消失

决不能让民勤成为第二个罗布泊——温家宝总理民勤之行纪实

- ◆ 新华网兰州10月2日电(记者 赵承)10月1日国庆节,中共中央政治局常委、国务院总到温家宝一大早就从北京出发,赶往他一直惦念的甘肃省民勤县,看望这里的干部群众。从上午8时到晚上10时,十四五个小时他没有停歇,奔波在石羊河流域,深入腾格里沙漠和巴丹吉林沙漠交会处,察看防沙治沙情况,进入村庄走访农户,与干部群众座谈,研究民勤生态保护、沙漠治理的根本大计。
- ◆ 民勤,地处石羊河流域最下游,东西北三面被腾格里和巴丹吉林两大沙漠包围。由于石羊河上游祁连山水源涵养能力降低和中游用水流增,进入民勤的地表水锐减,当地超采地下水灌溉,荒漠边缘以每年3至4米的速度向紧洲推进。目前,仅有一条狭长的绿色通道和武威相连,窄处只有1000多米。民勤,几乎变成沙漠孤岛。
- ◆ 防沙治沙,关乎民勤的生死存亡,也深深牵动着总理的心。早在2001年7月30日,温家宝就在一次批示中指出"决不能让民勤成为第二个罗布泊"。此后,他一直关注着石宇河流域综合治理和民勤防沙治沙工作,有关批示和指示达11次。每年全国两会,温家宝参加甘肃代表团讨论时,都要了解民勤防沙治沙情况,和代表们共商生态建设的大计。根据总理的要求,国家有关部门多次到民勤调查研究,制定了石羊河流域治理的规划方案,并启动了应急调水工程。
- → 温家宝首先来到被誉为民勤生命工程的红崖山水库。这座水库承接了发源于祁连山的石羊河河水,养育着被沙漠合围的30万民勤人民。登上水库大坝,温家宝一边听取水库管理人员的介绍,一边洋细询问红崖山水库近几年水位变化情况。当地干部告诉总理,民勤年降雨量只有110条米,蒸发量高处30分倍。举目眺望,汪汪水泊不远处就是绵延的沙斤,温家宝面色严峻,陷入沉思。

# **Migration of Mingin**

# **LOGO**

- Nearly 20,000 people in Minqin so far were forced to move out of Minqin due to the desertification.
- Prof.Reuveny described four ways in which this environmental migration can contribute to conflict.
- First, violent competition can ensue between natives and migrants ove local resources, especially under conditions of scarcity or when propert rights are already loosely defined.
- Second, the arrival of migrants of a different ethnic background than the natives can threaten to shift the locality's ethnic balance, a prospe the natives may resist.
- Third, people in both the original and the new host country can seek to use the migrants as a foreign policy tool, especially to destabilize the other country.
- ◆ Fourth, the migration can exacerbate already existing conflicts over issues such as land rights, resulting in an escalation of these disputes.

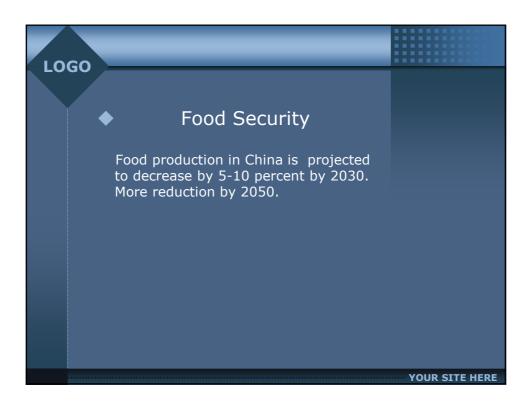
  (Rafiel Reuveny, "Environmental Change, Migration and Conflict: Theoretical Analysisand Empirical Explorations," Human Security and Climate Change: An International Workshop (2) 1.23 laws (2015): 2)



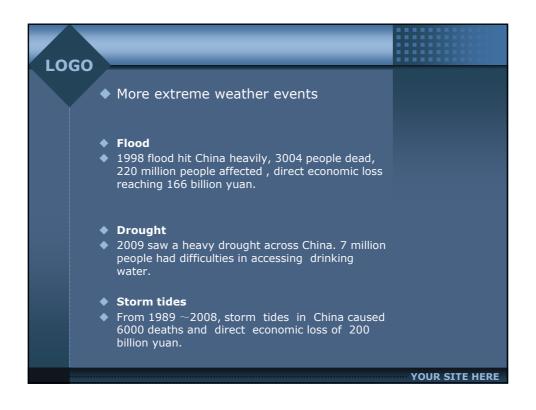
- 4.3 Climate change exacerbates China's water shortage problem, food security problem and causes more extreme weather events, threatening the life and living standards of Chinese people.
- ◆ Climate change led to ¼ reduction of China's glaciers in the last 300-350 years, and is projected to cause another ¼ reduction by mid-21 century.
- ◆ The natural runoff volume of China's major seven rivers is on the decrease. Yellow River is on the top.
- ◆ Yangtze River and Yellow River both originate from Tibet Highlands.

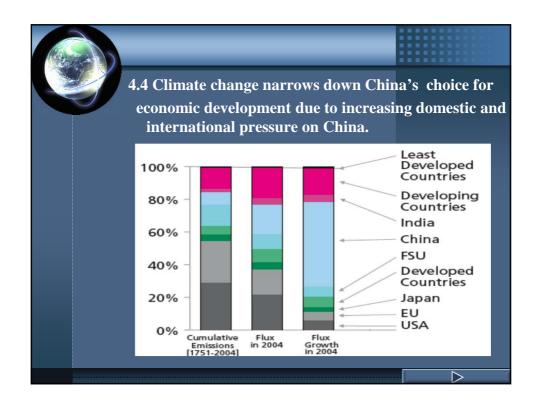


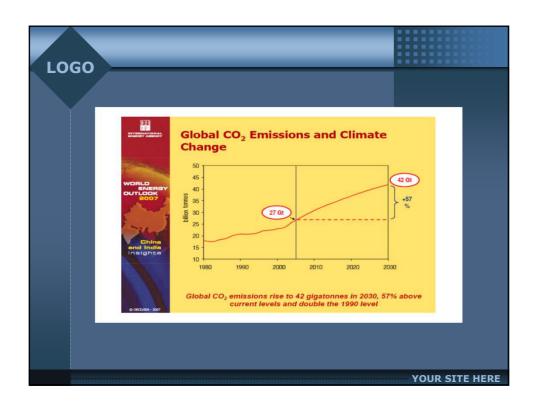


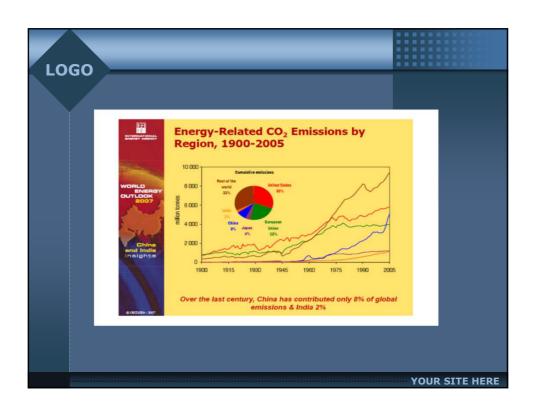


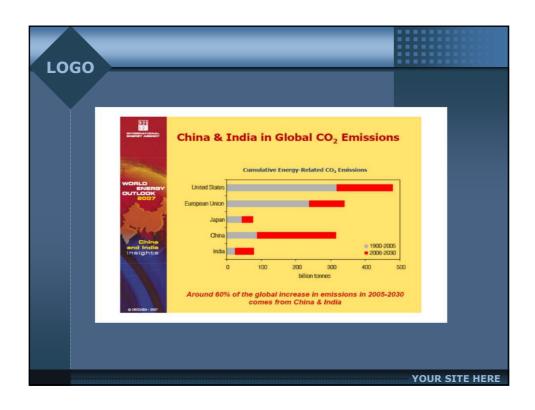




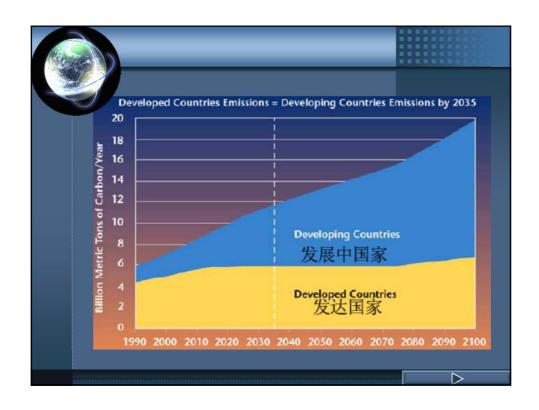


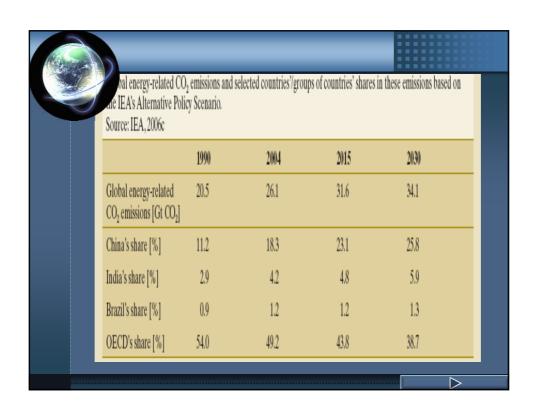




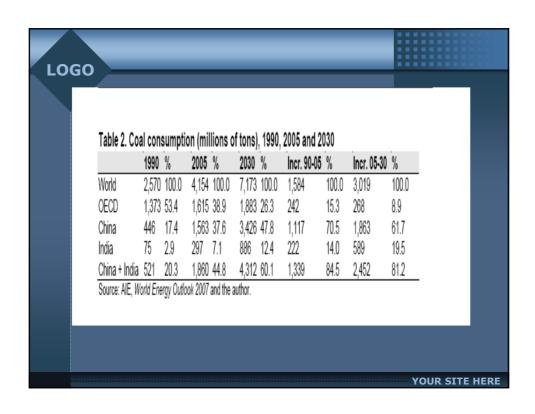


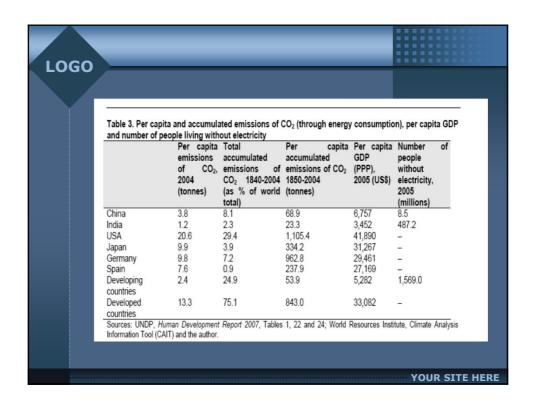


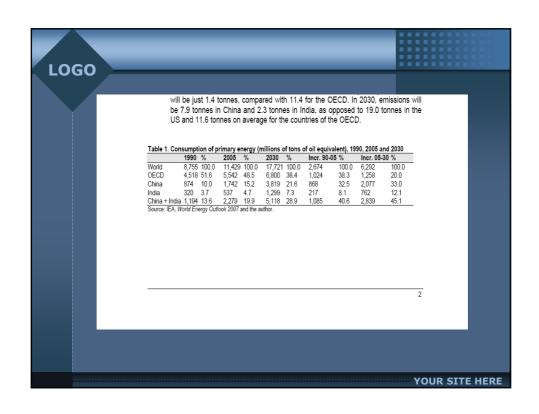


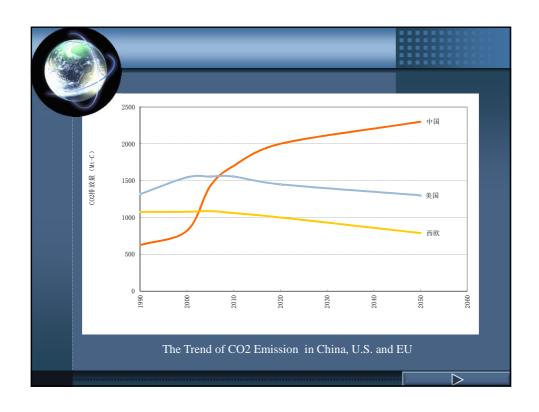


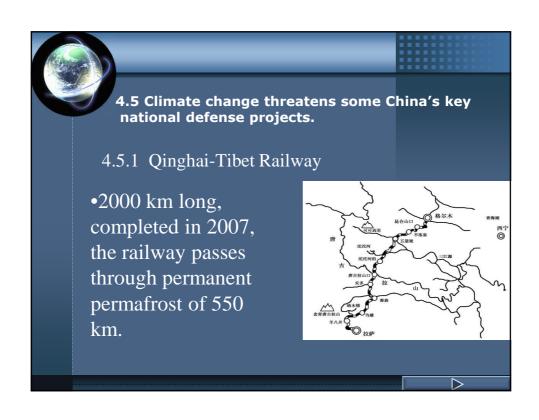
	1990	%	2005	%	2030	%	of oil equiv Incr. 90-		Incr. 05-	
World	8,755	100.0	11,429	100.0	17,721	100.0	2,674	100.0	6,292	100
OECD	4,518	51.6	5,542	48.5	6,800	38.4	1,024	38.3	1,258	20.
China	874	10.0	1,742	15.2	3,819	21.6	868	32.5	2,077	33.
India	320	3.7	537	4.7	1,299	7.3	217	8.1	762	12.
China + India	1.194	13.6	2,279	19.9	5,118	28.9	1,085	40.6	2,839	45.

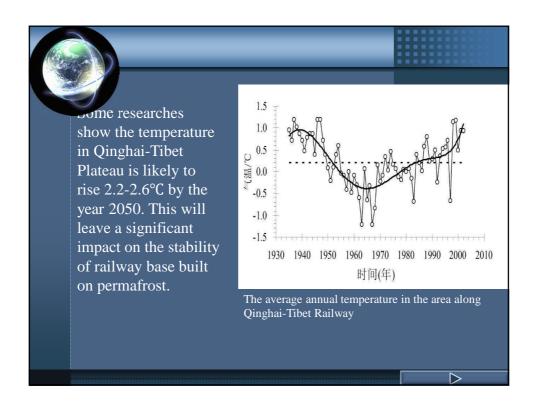


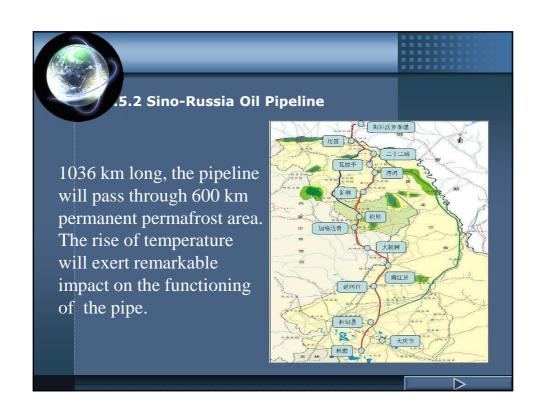




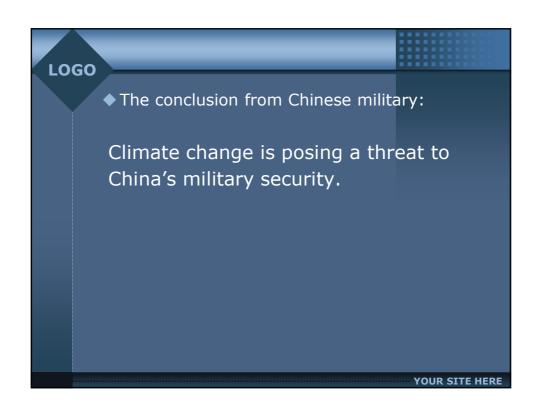




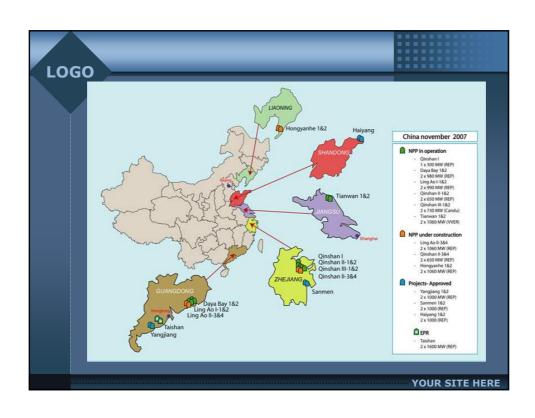


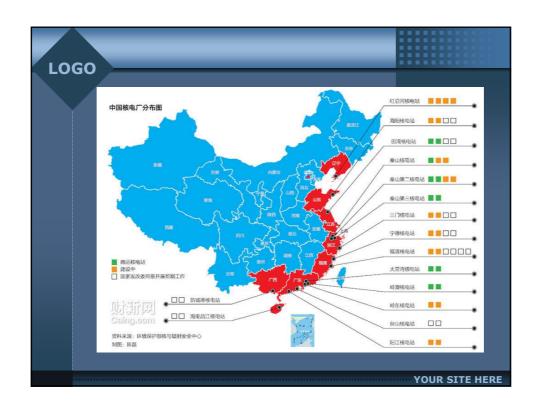






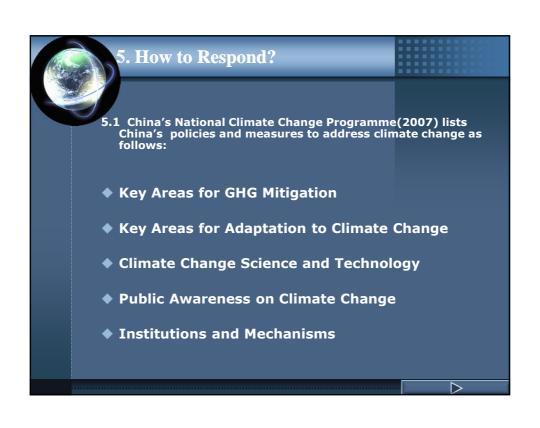










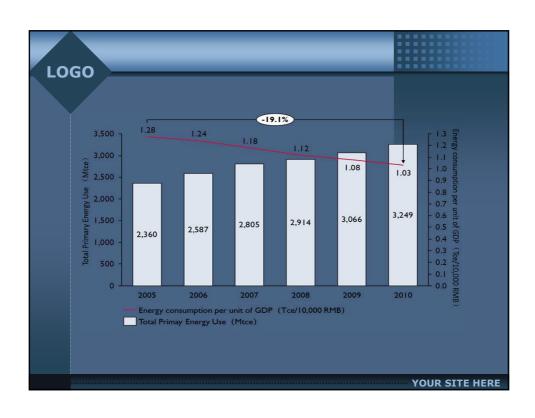


# **5.2 The 11<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development**

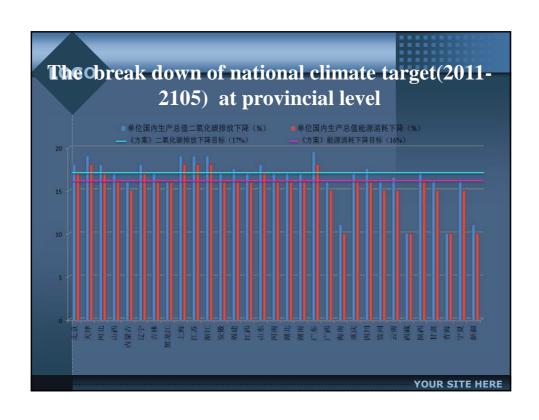
◆ In the 11<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Period (2005-2010), China accomplished its energy conservation goals listed in the Eleventh Five-Year Plan.

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◆ China's energy consumption per unit of GDP dropped 19.1 percent from that of 2005 accumulatively, or a reduction of 1.46 billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions.



Economic and Social Bever			
Item	2010	2015	Growth
GDP (Trillion RMB)	39.8	55.8	7%(annual growt rate
The share of tertiary industry added value in GDP (%)	43	47	9.3
The share of the expenditure on R&D in GDP (%)	1.75	2.2	25.79
Annual Per Capita Disposable Income of Urban Households (RMB)	19109	>26810	>7%(annual growt rate
Annual Per Capita Net Income of Rural Households (RMB)	5919	>8310	>7%(annual growt
Population (million)	1341	<1390	0.72%(annua growth rate
The share of non-fossil energy in primary energy consumption mix (%)	8.5	11.4	34.1
Energy consumption per unit GDP (%)	1.03	0.87	-16
Carbon emission per unit GDP (%)	2.29	1.90	-17
Stock volume of Forest (100 million cu. m)	137	143	4.4



# 5.4 Laws, Regulations, and Important Policies China has formulated or amended the Renewable Energy Law, Circular Economy Promotion Law,

- Energy Conservation Law,
- ◆ Clean Production Promotion Law,
- ♦ Water and Soil Conservation Law and
- ◆ Islands Protection Law,
- ◆ China also promulgated
- the Regulations on Civil Buildings Energy Conservation, Regulations on Public Organizations Energy Conservation and
- ◆ Regulations on Drought Control,

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# LOGO ◆ and issued • the Interim Measures for Energy Conservation Evaluation, • Review of Fixed Assets Investment, • Measures for Energy Conservation Supervision of High-Energy-Consuming Special Equipment • Interim Measures for Supervision of Energy Conservation and Emission Reduction of National Enterprises.

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China has been compiling the National Plan to Address Climate Change (2011-2020), Climate Change Addressing Law, and Low Carbon Development Promotion Law now to guide the work in the coming years.

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# **5.5 Fiscal and Tax Measures**

◆ China's central treasury invested an accumulative total of RMB225 billion during the 11<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan period (2006-2010), to support energy-efficient technology upgrading and the popularization of energy-efficient products, forming an energy conservation capacity of 340 million tons of standard coal.

# 5.6 Market-based Mechanism and Instruments

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- China has embarked on one of the largest endeavors on emission reduction, to establish a national carbon emission trading system by 2015.
- As a first step, carbon-trading pilots have been initiated in seven provinces and cities, which include Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, Chongqing, Shenzhen, Hubei and Guangdong.

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# **5.7 Demonstration Pilot Projects**

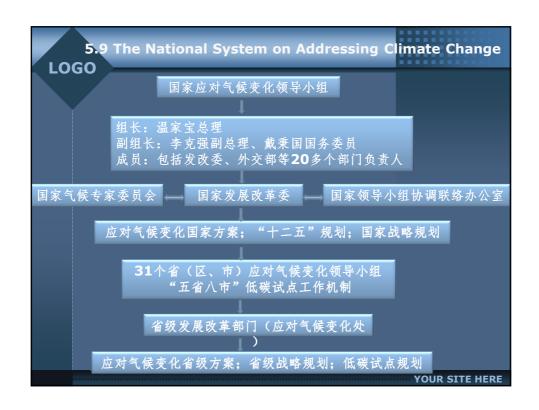
◆ China has promoted low-carbon pilot projects in selected provinces and cities.

◆ In 2010, China launched a national "low-carbon province and low-carbon city" experimental project. The first batch of selected localities included five provinces, namely, Guangdong, Hubei, Liaoning, Shaanxi and Yunnan, and eight cities, namely, Tianjin, Chongqing, Hangzhou, Xiamen, Shenzhen, Guiyang, Nanchang and Baoding.

# 5.8 Proactive Actions by Non-governmental Organizations

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- The China Society of Territorial Economics has opened low-carbon territory experimental areas,
- the All-China Environment Federation and China Tourism Association have carried out the nation's first low-carbon tourism experiments at 48 tourist resorts, and
- the China Iron and Steel Industry Association and All-China Federation of Trade Unions have organized benchmarking contests on energy conservation and consumption of large-scale energy-consuming steel production equipment.



# What's more important,

# Climate change should be integrated in China's national security framework:

- ----"West Conspiracy" in climate change should be abandoned.
- ----Strategic priority should be given to China's international climate cooperation.
- ----The National Leading Group on Climate
  Change should include the representatives from the military. The military should also establish
  The Military leading group on climate change.
- ---- Efforts must be made to build a low carbon army.

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----Shift of China's negotiation strategy from using the climate negotiation primarily as a tool to defend its space of development to as a tool of pushing forward China's transformation of economic development pattern, which is in the long term interest of China.



UNSC's two debates on climate change and security in 2007 and 2011.

----As an important forum in the near term to raise the public climate awareness.

----As a main mechanism for climate-related PKO in the long run.

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# 7. Some recent changes in China's domestic climate politics

- China's domestic climate politics is increasingly complex.
- ◆The public

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- ◆The renewable energy industry
- ◆The military

# 8. Conclusion

- ◆ It's high time to consider climate change as a national security threat to China. The threat is a long-term and comprehensive one.
- ♦ The threat from climate change currently is not a matter of survival of China.
- Combination of traditional security means and nortraditional security means is required to address the threat from climate change in China.
- ♦ What we lack the most now are the political will and the consensus in the society.

