

**CHINA NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ACTION PLAN
(2007-2015)**

November 2007

CHINA NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ACTION PLAN

Subscribing Departments:

Ministry of Health

State Environmental Protection Administration

National Development and Reform Commission

Ministry of Education

Ministry of Science and Technology

Ministry of Finance

Ministry of Land and Resources

Ministry of Construction

Ministry of Communication

Ministry of Water Resources

Ministry of Agriculture

Ministry of Commerce

State Administration of Radio Film and Television

National Bureau of Statistics

State Administration of Work Safety

Information Center Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council

China Meteorological Administration

State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine

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Index

1. Preamble.....	1
2. Guidelines and Principles.....	3
3. Objectives.....	4
4. Action Strategies.....	5
4.1 To establish and perfect laws, regulations and standards on environment and health	5
4.2 To establish environment and health monitoring networks.....	6
4.3 To strengthen pre-warning of environment and health risks and emergency handling.....	9
4.4 To develop national systems of information sharing and services for environment and health.....	11
4.5 To perfect technical support capacity on environment and health.....	12
4.6 To strengthen propaganda and communication on environment and health	16
5. Guarantee Mechanisms.....	17
5.1 To place environment and health in the list of government priorities	17
5.2 To establish state organizational structure for environment and health.....	18
5.3 To establish coordination mechanisms on environment and health	19

1. Preamble

China today is facing a critical stage of strategic opportunity for its economic and social development. To build a resource-saving and environment-friendly society, strive to solve the obvious environmental issues endangering people's health, ensure efficient environmental and health protection, as well as to promote the sustainable development of economy and society are currently the basic requirements and major tasks for carrying on the scientific outlook on development, establishing in every respect the concept of people-oriented approach, accelerating the process of building a socialistic harmonious society, and effectively protecting the fundamental interests of the broad masses of the people.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council have persistently paid attention to the environment and health problems. Shortly after the founding of the People's Republic of China, "prevention first" was formulated as a health approaching guideline, and vigorous patriotic health campaigns were carried out for the extensive rehabilitation of environmental sanitation, which played a positive and irreplaceable role in preventing the outbreak and spread of epidemics, thus protecting people's health and ensuring the smooth progress of national construction and economic development. Since the early 1980s, our government has been keeping environmental protection as a basic state policy, developing and using natural resources reasonably, making efforts to control environmental pollution and ecological damage, preventing deterioration of environmental quality, and ensuring sustained economic and social development. For many years, our government has been continuously strengthening environmental and health management and research. Great achievements have been made in environmental and health protection, thus making positive contributions to economic building and social development.

However, compared to the situation of economic and social development, the environment and health work in our country is still weak in capacity and at a lower

level. Especially since reform and opening up, with the rapid development of economy and the abundant growth of material and cultural wealth, people's expectations on living environment and health security are continuously rising. But the declines of environmental quality caused by pollution, the break of ecological balance, and the public health hazard are increasingly becoming the major factors restricting continuous economic growth and affecting harmonious society development. Realistically strengthening environment and health work, making efforts to solve the obvious contradictions among development, environment and health have become the major issues which need to be solved urgently.

Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and their partners cooperated closely with member states to advance the establishment of environment and health strategies and policies, proposed a series of recommendations on strengthening environment and health work, stressed the setting up of a long-term institutional cooperative mechanism between environment and health departments by drawing up "National Environmental Health Action Plan" (NEHAP) in order to promote the positive development of the environment and health work.

In order to effectively promote the environment and health work in our country, as an active response to the international community proposal, and in view of our obvious problems in environment and health areas, taking relevant foreign experiences as reference, we develop China National Environmental Health Action Plan: CNEHAP (2007-2015). As first programmatic document in this respect, CNEHAP will have great significance in guiding the scientific conduction of national environment and health work, and in promoting the sustainable development of our economy and society.

2. Guidelines and Principles

2.1 Guidelines

To follow the scientific outlook on development for achieving people-oriented, all-round, coordinated and sustainable development. In accordance with the basic requirements of building a socialistic harmonious society, to strengthen the management and research on environment and health, address the key problems closely related to people's interests, reduce environmental pollution and its health impact risks, upgrade the capacity and level of handling and services so as to protect people's health and their lives, to promote harmony among development, environment and health, and to provide firm safeguard for sustainable economic and social development.

2.2 Principles

Government leadership with public participation. Government should play its role of organizing, leading, making great efforts to mobilize social forces and resources, and urging public participation.

Cooperation and integrated arrangement among sectors. Various sectors should strengthen their coordination and collaboration, make full use of existing foundation and resources, and draw up reasonable plans.

Prevention first and strengthening monitoring. The policy and concept of giving priority to prevention should be followed to upgrade monitoring and prevention level, and to enforce source control.

Scientific implementation and carrying out measures. Priorities and countryside development should be highlighted to gradually enhance public service equality, and to stress effective measures.

3. Objectives

3.1 General objectives

To improve legal, administrative and technological supports for environment and health activities, to control harmful environmental factors and their impacts on health, to reduce the incidence of environment-related diseases, to protect people's health, to promote the achievement of the restricting targets set in the State Outline of the 11th Five-Year Plan and UN Millennium Development Goals, so as to ensure the sustainable and coordinative economic and social development.

3.2 Staged objectives

2007-2010: To fully establish a comprehensive environment and health cooperation mechanism, to develop the institutions for pushing forward the coordinative conduction of the environment and health work, to build the risk assessment system of health hazards caused by environmental pollution, to complete the comprehensive assessment of the existing laws, regulations and standards on environment and health, to propose the requirements of building systems of relevant laws, regulations and standards, to complete a national survey on the current situation of environment and health, to fulfill the research and demonstration of an implementation plan for the monitoring network of environment and health, and to strengthen the scientific research on the assessment of environmental pollution and health safety.

2010-2015: To carry out research, development and revision of laws and regulations on environment and health, to perfect the system of environment and health standards, to expand the environment and health managing team and laboratory technical capacity, to basically accomplish the setting up of monitoring networks and information-sharing systems of environment and health, to realize the effective integration of environmental factors and health effects monitoring and information sharing, to perfect the risk assessment, forecasting and pre-warning of environment

and health, to realize the multi-departmental collaborative emergency response to the public urgent events caused by environmental pollution, and to basically achieve a good situation that all social sectors participate in environment and health work .

4. Action Strategies

4.1 To establish and perfect laws, regulations and standards on environment and health

To follow the people-oriented concept, to guide the activities on environment and health based on protecting people's health right and raising their life quality. To perfect the system of laws, regulations and standards, to lay a solid legal foundation for strengthening government supervision and administration, forming good social behaviors and supporting the public to safeguard their rights and interests.

To perfect laws and regulations on environment and health. To comprehensively evaluate the implementing effects of existing relevant laws and regulations, and according to existing key inconsistencies to put forward an overall plan for perfecting laws and regulations related to environment and health. To carry out the legal system researches on the compensation for damages caused by environmental pollution, to further strengthen the legal liability of environmental pollution, to perfect the legal basis for the compensation for damages caused by environmental pollution, to study and formulate the specific compensatory methods such as the identification of the extent of damages caused by environmental pollution, the procedures and scope of compensation, and the legal assistance approach for the pollution victims. To perfect laws and regulations on environmental impact assessment, to incorporate the environmental effects on health as an essential component of the environmental impact assessment, and to strengthen the prevention and control of health hazards. To initiate the researches and drafting of regulations on drinking water hygiene and security so as to ensure drinking water security effectively.

To develop and promulgate regulations on the health impact assessment of environmental pollution, indoor air hygiene management, and emergency response to public urgent events caused by environmental pollution, and to promote regulation-related work.

To perfect relevant standards on environment and health. In light of the requirements of environment and health practice and concerning our national current situation, to coordinate the revision of related standards so as to perfect the standards system. To expedite the development of basic standards of urgent need in the key fields of environment and health, and solve joint problems among current standards as soon as possible to ensure smooth conducting of environment and health work. Currently, the following standards need to be formulated urgently:

- The assessment and identification of health damage caused by environmental pollution;

- The monitoring of health effects caused by environmental pollution;

- The environmental health impact and risk assessment;

- The hygienic assessment of drinking water, indoor air, electromagnetic radiation, etc.;

- The biological pollution of soil;

- The testing of indicators of the environmental pollutants and corresponding health effects;

- The emergency response and handling of public urgent events caused by environmental pollution.

4.2 To establish environment and health monitoring networks

To conduct real-time and systematic monitoring of environmental pollution and its health hazards, to make timely and effective analysis of health effect and damage resulted from environmental factors, to keep abreast of the developing trends of environmental pollution and its health impact, so as to lay

the scientific basis for the government to formulate effective intervention strategy and measures.

To develop unified programs and norms for national monitoring activities according to the practical needs of environment and health activities, and based on making full use of existing monitoring networks, work and capacities of relevant departments, to further strengthen monitoring facilities and professional personnel, to continually enrich and optimize monitoring contents, to gradually establish and perfect national environment and health monitoring networks including environmental quality and health impact monitoring. According to laws and regulations, the relevant departments carry out monitoring and researches on environment and health within their respective duty scope for acquiring abundant basic data and achievements and systematically mastering the level of the major environmental pollutants, the human health effects situation together with their developing and changing trends, so as to provide the strong technical support for guiding environment and health protection scientifically.

To establish monitoring networks on drinking water safety and health. On the basis of the existing monitoring systems of water environment and drinking water sanitation, etc., and in conjunction with the construction tasks and the monitoring contents stipulated in the state plan of urban and rural drinking water security and the focus of the drinking water security safeguard work, to propose those items which need to be monitored including the indicators of water sources pollution, irrigating water quality, hygienic quality of drinking water, scope of water-borne diseases monitoring, and other health effects information; to work out national monitoring plans, and to scientifically arrange and establish monitoring sites so as to form national monitoring networks on drinking water security and health.

To establish monitoring networks on air pollution and health. To screen the priority pollutants which affect human health either directly by air or indirectly

through products of agriculture, animal husbandry and fishery, to study and identify the monitoring indicators of human health, to develop national monitoring plans on air pollution and corresponding health effects. To establish human health monitoring sites in communities for monitoring and collecting health status information, and on the basis of the existing air quality monitoring sites and conventional monitoring work, to adjust or increase monitoring sites and frequency, to perfect the capacity of monitoring priority pollutants and make it match the human health monitoring so as to form national monitoring networks on air pollution and health.

To establish monitoring networks on soil environment and health. On the basis of the existing environmental monitoring and nationwide pollution sources census, according to the indicators of the major environmental hazards, the human exposure levels, and the characteristics of regional population, society and development, to establish monitoring sites of the typical regional soil environment and human health, to workout national and regional monitoring plans, to integrate and strengthen resources and capacity of the existing soil environment and health monitoring so as to form national monitoring networks on soil environment and health.

To establish monitoring networks on extreme weather events and health. To take the provinces (autonomous regions, or municipalities directly under the Central Government) as monitoring units and establish monitoring sites at local (city or county) levels to implement the real-time monitoring, analysis and assessment of the health hazards caused by extreme weather events. Using existing stations of national meteorological system, to establish monitoring networks on extreme weather events, to strengthen capacity of forecasting high-temperature, heat waves, floods, droughts, storms, dust storms, cold wave, and other extreme weather events. To strengthen the capacity building of existing national weather and health monitoring,

and to extend monitoring contents so as to form national monitoring networks on extreme weather events and health.

To establish monitoring networks on public place sanitation and biological safety in special places. According to the stipulations of “Law on the Prevention and Treatment of Infectious Diseases”, “Law on Animal Epidemic Prevention”, “Public Places Health Management Ordinance”, and “Pathogenic Microorganism Laboratory Biosafety Regulations”, aiming at biological pollution and its health hazard risk in public places, hospitals, biological laboratories, animal breeding farms and other specific places, considering the needs of the supervision and management, to develop monitoring plans and programs of public places sanitation and biological security in specific sites, to establish monitoring sites in major places and carry out public place sanitation and biological security monitoring so as to form national monitoring networks on public place sanitation and biological safety in special places.

4.3 To strengthen pre-warning of environment and health risks and emergency handling

To carry on risk evaluation, risk pre-warning and emergency incidents handling effectively, to upgrade the capacity of risk prediction, and emergency handling, so as to avoid or reduce serious environment and health hazards.

To conduct environment and health risk evaluation. To establish environment and health risk management mechanisms, to perfect methods and procedures of the environmental and health risk assessment. According to the situation of environmental pollution and its health effects, the current management policies, available resources, the capabilities of prevention and control, etc., to reasonably set the acceptable risk level, to develop national environment and health risk rank division, to upgrade prediction, management and decision-making abilities of controllable harmful environmental factors and health hazards, to gradually realize

the cost control of environment and health risk.

To strengthen pre-warning of environment and health risks. On the basis of environment and health monitoring and risk assessment, to pre-warn serious environmental pollution and its health hazards which may happen, to propose management and technical response measures, and realize scientific decision-making. To establish pre-warning mechanisms of environment and health risk, reporting systems of environmental pollution, health damage and the warning dissemination system, to perfect pre-warning means in order to realize early analysis, early forecasting, and early intervention, thus preventing the occurrence of significant environmental pollution and health damage events. Taking the major environmental pollution and its health damage as objects, study the response relationship between environmental pollution and health damage, develop pre-warning and treatment programs for different risk divisions reasonably, and to continuously upgrade capacities of preventing significant environment and health risks.

To strengthen capacity building on health emergency incidents handling. According to relevant laws, regulations and departmental functions, to establish working systems of emergency response and handling of urgent events, and reporting mechanisms of urgent and major events. To define emergency response and handling arrangements of urgent public events caused by environmental pollution, with the environmental protection and health departments undertaking the principal parts, and other relevant departments joining if necessary. To enhance the emergency response and handling abilities by integrating corresponding institutions or positions of environmental protection and health departments to strengthen the coordination between decision-making and action, ensuring the emergency response and handling work reasonable, orderly, efficient and effective. To fully exert monitoring networks on environment and health, and the means of risk assessment, to emphatically monitor and assess the risk factors which are likely to cause urgent events, to enhance abilities

of predicting urgent events; to strengthen researches on rapid diagnosis of urgent events on the spot and the controlling measures as well as treatment methods, to enhance technical trainings, drillings and field exercises of the emergency responding teams, to regulate emergency response behavior, to improve spot disposal abilities and levels, to carry out environmental investigations at the scene after urgent events, tracking and monitoring of health effects, and to assess the effects of emergency response. To guide environmental rehabilitation and relief of health damage at scene, to urge further perfection of pilot plans for emergency response, the materials and equipments guarantee, the management and decision-making systems. In the light of existing health insurance and medical assistance systems for urban and rural areas, to provide timely and effective diagnosis and treatment for health damage caused by environmental pollution, preventing the worse of damage and reducing the damage burden for safeguarding the victims' lives and health rights effectively.

4.4 To develop national systems of information sharing and services for environment and health

Information is an important foundation of environment and health activities. In providing strong support for decision making, management and research based on the full use of information, the guarantee of sound information sharing and management is needed.

To develop systems of information sharing and services. Making the best use of existing resources such as the internet, the government networks, and national monitoring databases of environment and health, etc., relying on platforms of national unified E-government networks and basic scientific and technologic conditions, according to the relevant benchmarks of WHO and UNEP, to establish national information-sharing and service systems for environment and health and realize information resources sharing. By collecting and integrating national environment and health monitoring data and reports on urgent events, issuing risk pre-warning information, regulations and standards, policies and working dynamics, etc., to

provide sound information services for decision-making, management, researches and the general public. Meanwhile, learning from the advanced domestic and foreign experiences, to gradually establish systems of the national environment and health indicators, accurately reflect national status, situation and demands of environment and health, providing guides for the developmental direction of environment and health.

To establish environmental and health monitoring databases. While setting up national monitoring networks on environment and health, according to the central and local work division on environmental pollution and health monitoring, to build national and local frameworks on dynamic monitoring databases of environmental pollution and health effects respectively. To work out managing and operating mechanisms of environment and health monitoring databases, to unify the codes of environmental and health data in order to match the international ones, to refine the data collection, clearly state the data source, strengthen the quality control, assurance and auditing of data, so as to form effective information resources of monitoring data, and provide the scientific basis for national and local management and decisions of environment and health, as well as in providing basic data for researches on environment and health. Meanwhile, to formulate “National Profiles of Environment and Health” and “Data Tables of Environment and Health” as a mechanism of making effective use of monitoring data on environment and health.

To improve information sharing mechanisms and information issuing institutions. To establish information-sharing mechanisms of environment and health, ensuring the comprehensive and timely provision of relevant data and information, and to effectively enjoy sharing within the specified competence, to fully exert the efficiency of information resources. According to relevant rules of departmental functions and national information management, to establish and perfect the information issuing institution of environment and health, to define releasing channels for various information, coordination procedures and the accountability, thus

ensuring the authoritative, timely effective and accurate information dissemination.

4.5 To perfect technical support capacity on environment and health

To master the status of state environment and health, to conduct researches on priority issues according to current situation, to strengthen scientific and technical innovation and achievement conversion, so as to provide strong technical support for environment and health activities.

To carry out survey on current situation of environment and health

impact. To conduct nationwide surveys of the major environmental factors and environment-related health damage, to identify basically the types, extents, characters and distribution of health damage caused by environmental pollution, and master the spectrum of diseases caused by environmental pollution, in order to provide scientific basis for environment and health action implementation.

—General nationwide surveys on pollution sources. In serious environmental pollution areas where serious health hazards have occurred or may occur, to conduct survey on pollution sources, pollutants and pollution level, to master major pollution sources, the polluting routine, and the status quo of pollution caused by major pollutants, and, combining with the results of the investigation on environmental pollution and health effects to identify the list of environmental pollutants which need national and regional prior control, to provide references for the effective implementation of assessing environmental impact, as well as the management, control and monitoring of priority pollutants.

—Surveys on health impact resulted from environmental pollution. To carry out nationwide surveys on levels of internal exposure of major environmental pollutants and epidemiological investigations of health hazards caused by environmental pollution, systematically mastering the basic data about the internal environmental

pollutants load of Chinese population and the types, causes, regional distribution and other actual status of health damages, to provide technical basis for developing identification standards on health damage caused by environmental pollution, implementing researches and monitoring on the prevention and treatment of health damage caused by environmental factors, as well as for establishing and perfecting the related laws and regulations on health hazards caused by environmental pollution.

To conduct researches on safety evaluation and responding measures of environment and health. According to national and international requirements and the developing trend of environment and health, to carry out the following basic and applied researches as soon as possible.

—Researches on human health effects of climate change. To study the human health effects of climate changes in urban and rural areas in our country, especially the effects on the various provincial and regional incidence of diseases which are sensitive to climate changes such as high-temperature and heat waves, rainstorm and floods, gale, dust storms, drought, haze, and other extreme weather and climate events, to exploit and establish pre-warning systems of climate changes and health, emergency responding plans and related methods and techniques, to assess the effectiveness of the pre-warning systems and other intervention measures.

—Basic researches on environment and health, and researches on Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) intervention to health impacts of environmental pollution. To strengthen basic researches on environment and health, carry out researches on screening the sensitive indicators of the early health effects of heavy metals, persistent organic pollutants and other major pollutants, as well as the mechanisms of health damage, etc. Combining animal tests with epidemiological investigations, to identify the early health effects and health damages of some specific environmental pollutants, and according to the health effects, to identify the pollutants which need priority

control. To make full use of the theoretical knowledge and experiences accumulated about researches on ancient literature of TCM, regimen and rehabilitation and differential treatment, etc., take advantage of the “simple, convenient, effective, cheap” characteristics of TCM, implement the TCM intervention study on the diseases and sub-health status related to environmental pollution and put forth intervention measures. To popularize methods of health care and regimen of TCM, to enhance human body resistance to environmental pollution, to prevent and delay the formation of diseases related to environmental pollution.

—Researches on techniques for evaluation of environmental pollution impacts on health. To study techniques of testing human loading and assessing health effects characteristics caused by the major chemical environmental pollution, environmental electromagnetic radiation, etc. On the basis of mastering human loading level of major environmental pollution, the early health effects and health damage status of exposed persons, to identify the response relationship between human loading levels of environmental pollution and health effects, to establish assessment methods of early health effects and health damage caused by major environmental pollution, to lay the foundation for further implementation of researches on environmental and health protection and intervention measures.

—Researches on environment-related disease burden assessment systems and analysis of financial requirement of environment and health. To explore the assessment of the direct and indirect economic costs of human health damage caused by environmental pollution by the methods of the willingness to pay, the cost of the disease and the modified human capital, to implement the analysis of disease burden caused by environmental pollution, and to understand the economic cost of the disease burden caused by major environmental pollution. To implement a preliminary analysis of financial needs of environmental issues and their health effects, and to realize investment diversification. To study and establish economic cost assessment methods and quantitative systems of health damage caused by environmental pollution,

incorporate the economic cost assessment of health damage caused by environmental pollution into green national economic accounting system gradually.

To strengthen capacity building on techniques and professional contingents. According to functions of environmental and health monitoring networks, the setting of monitoring sites, and the requirements of investigations and researches which need to be implemented urgently, to further strengthen the building of laboratory facilities, equipments, and the on-site monitoring means, to improve the monitoring capacities of priority pollutants and key indicators of human health so as to ensure the smooth implementation of the major investigations and researches. To regulate and expand the professional technical teams, to promote the development of relevant disciplines and improve higher education and personnel trainings for providing personnel and knowledge reserves for the environment and health work, and to upgrade the technical supporting capacities of environment and health on the whole.

4.6 To strengthen propaganda and communication on environment and health

To carry out public propaganda and extensive communication in order to raise the common awareness of environment and health practice, to strive for supports from various sectors, ensuring the effective implementation of policies and measures on environment and health.

To strengthen social propaganda and education. Through television, radio, newspaper, networks and other media, to widely publicize laws, regulations, status, situation and challenges of the environment and health in our country, to draw attention to the environment and health from various social aspects, to urge social organizations, non-government organizations, research and academic institutions, enterprises and media, etc., in fulfilling responsibilities and obligations of their own

accord and in actively contributing to the national environment and health work. To strongly implement environment and health knowledge propaganda and public education, raise the people's awareness of protecting environment and health, urge good behavior formation of individuals and the whole society, thus creating a positive atmosphere in which the whole society protects environment and safeguards health.

To conduct active national and international communications. To fully exert the functional mechanisms of national forum on environment and health, to identify the major fields of environment and health in our country, to study actions and measures which need to be taken, to propose ways and methods to solve relevant problems, promote the multi-departmental collaboration, advance the scientific development of national environmental and health cause. To extensively carry out academic communication and technical symposium activities in environment and health areas, to update knowledge and information timely, train and cultivate leading personnel and backbone of science and technology, and to promote scientific and technological innovations, to provide strong technical support for the environment and health work. To actively participate in international and regional environment and health activities, keep abreast of international trends, absorb the advanced experiences in environment and health, implement project cooperations, learn new techniques and methods, and to upgrade our level of environment and health work continuously.

5. Guarantee Mechanisms

Environment and health practice is a systematic project which needs inter-sectoral participation, multi-discipline support and integrated collaboration among relevant parts. Effective measures should be taken at the level of legislation, policy making and enforcement in order to improve the effects both in environmental protection and in health protection.

5.1 To place environment and health in the list of government priorities

Well handling environment and health issues is a basic request of implementing national sustainable development strategy successfully, it also has an important bearing on achieving the aim of a well-to-do society and the basic public interests. All regions and sectors should further raise their understanding, strengthen leadership, put environment and health issues into their important working schedule, incorporate environment and health into the social and economic development plans, establish the prior position of environment and health practice, strengthen the enforcement of laws and regulations relevant to environment and health, perfect working teams of supervision and management in order to fulfill the executive management responsibilities. Governments at all levels should provide supports for environment and health work, and continuously expand fundraising channels, to gradually form a situation that the government, social organizations and enterprises, individuals, etc., support the environment and health cause together. The relevant departments should strengthen the organization of environment and health work, conscientiously implement tasks, objectives and requirements, execute government affair publicity, strengthen responsibility assessment and accept supervision by society, ensuring the smooth and effective implementation of environment and health work.

5.2 To establish state organizational structure for environment and health

To set up an environment and health leading group at the state level with the Ministry of Health and the State Environmental Protection Administration as leading ministries, and participating departments including National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Land and Resources, Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Communication, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce, State Administration of Radio Film and Television, National Bureau of Statistics, State Administration of Work Safety, Information Center Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council, China Meteorological Administration, State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, etc. The leading group steers to

formulate national macro-control policy on environment and health, and guides the scientific development of environment and health work. To set up a joint secretariat under the leading group consisting of members from the Ministry of Health and the State Environmental Protection Administration to undertake the operation and coordination of relevant work. To establish a National Expert Consulting Committee on environment and health for providing consultancy advice and technical support to state environment and health practice.

5.3 To establish coordination mechanisms on environment and health

To set up a routine meeting institution of the state environment and health leading group, a working institution of the state environment and health secretariat agency, a local working institution for inter-departmental coordination, together with an assessing and accountability institution so as to ensure the overall and effective implementation of national environment and health work. To establish inter-departmental coordination mechanisms of environment and health work by defining the division of tasks among departments in accordance with their respective functions and work foundation, developing their work plans scientifically, and fully exerting the departmental expertise and resources efficiency.

As the leading departments of national environment and health work, Ministry of Health and State Environmental Protection Administration are jointly responsible for the organization and coordination of national environment and health work, carrying out the establishment of laws, regulations and standards related to environment and health, environment and health monitoring, information management, risk assessment and the emergency handling of urgent public events caused by environmental pollution; National Development and Reform Commission is responsible for coordinating and organizing to develop the macro management and controlling policies which are propitious to the harmonious development of environment and health; Ministry of Education is responsible for incorporating the environment and health knowledge into relevant courses and special education programs and

implementing the environment and health propaganda and education activities at schools; Ministry of Science and Technology is responsible for incorporating the national major scientific and technological work of environment and health into national science and technology development programs and national technology plans; Ministry of Finance is responsible for arranging necessary funds needed for the environment and health work, and strengthening financial management and supervision; Ministry of Land and Resources is responsible for geological environmental protection, the monitoring and supervision of preventing pollution and excessive exploitation of groundwater; Ministry of Construction is responsible for the preparation of urban and rural planning favorable for environment and health development, organizing and implementing water quality security of urban water supply, supervision and management of urban environmental sanitation, strengthening guidance and supervision of urban sewage treatment, and developing standards and norms related to relevant project construction, etc.; Ministry of Communication is responsible for the development of the communication development plans and policies which will improve environmental and health protection; Ministry of Water Resources is responsible for drafting plans of water resources protection, organizing the zoning of water function areas and the control of discharging sewage to the drinking water source and other water areas, also responsible for the unified management, monitoring and supervision of water resources (including aerial water, surface water, groundwater), examining the pollutant receiving capacity of water areas, and proposing advice to restrict the total discharge of pollutants; Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for the related monitoring work of agricultural environment and agro-biological security; Ministry of Commerce is responsible for the formulation of the relevant trade development programs and policies which are favorable for environment and health development; State Administration of Radio Film and Television is responsible for propaganda of environment and health on radio and television; National Bureau of Statistics is responsible for guiding the establishment of relevant database and information-sharing platforms; State Administration of Work Safety is responsible for developing environment and health protection programs in

workplaces and organizing their implementation; Information Center Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council, in conjunction with relevant departments, is responsible for conducting research, development and revision of laws and regulations related to environment and health; China Meteorological Administration is responsible for organizing the monitoring and forecast of meteorology, also the joint meteorological prevention of major disastrous weather and forecasting air quality together with other departments, organizing related meteorological researches and providing related meteorological data; and State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine is responsible for the applied researches on traditional Chinese medicine in environment and health areas.