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## Research Article

# PHILOSOPHY BASIS OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND TRANSFORMATION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT METHOD IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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### ABSTRACT

The material unity of the world is shown in the mutual relationship of nature factors - human - society. That is the philosophy basis to let us realize that now environmental protection is requirement of transforming economic development method, and also is the requirements of improving and ensuring lives in developing countries.

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## INTRODUCTION

The achievement of the industrialization and modernization process made the economy of developing countries change with fast growth rate. However, the natural resource exploitation of people in these countries made environment destroyed more seriously. Environmental pollution, environmental degradation, environmental incidents and unfavorable changes of nature are daily, hourly affected to standards of human living. A series of environmental issues, such as resource depletion, ecological imbalance, climate change, sea level rise, environmental pollution is big challenges for the sustainable economic development of developing countries in the future. Therefore, in the future, developing countries need basic national strategies about saving resources and protecting the environment, reducing emission level due to the greenhouse effect, developing circular economy, promoting green technology, low carbon, actively responding to climate change, promoting harmony between economic development - society with population, resources, environment, follow the sustainable development path.

### *The philosophy basis for relationship between transformation of economic development method and environmental protection*

For deep consideration, the relationship between the transformation of economic development method and environmental protection is exactly the relationship between human and nature. The material unity of the world is reflected in the mutual relationship of natural factors-human-society. This is the philosophy basis for us to research the relationship between the transformation of economic development method and environmental protection.

The human society history went through social regimes from low to high and showed that: no society can survive and develop if not implement "the first historical activity"- the material producing activity. Since that society cannot satisfy their needs by available things in nature. In order to ensure the survival, society must carry out producing materials which is the process by which human impact on the natural world makes the natural world to disclose features so that humans can be aware. On the other hand, by impact on nature, human will create materials wealth to feed themselves and society.

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At early formation, human totally depend on nature, depend on "the blind impact of forces not under control" (Friedrich Engels, 1870). Gradually, along with the impact process on nature, working tools were developed, people were aware, and understood the natural rule. Then, people dominated and changed by the natural world. Once grasping the nature rule, "human created these changes, made nature serve the purpose of dominating the natural world". People began to dominate the natural world and every time there is a step forward each time, it extended the human eye" (Friedrich Engels, 1870). These were the premeditated activities, plan ahead and focus on certain goals. Animals in survival process also constantly impact on the natural world, but their impact to the natural world seems to be nil and especially, they absolutely have no sense of their actions. Animals just taking advantage of the natural world to satisfy the instinct needs. In contrast, people with pre-determined objectives, using the different ways have been gradually discovering nature, control, and "only human can print up the traces of wills on earth" (Friedrich Engels, 1870).

Thus, material producing activity is the human activity which has purpose, and was performed through human labor. Human must conduct working, impact on nature to produce material goods in order to increase economic growth; this is the objective requirements of society, is the basic and prerequisite condition which today as well as thousands of years ago people must conduct daily and hourly to maintain their life and ensure the society's development. On the other hand, the impact on nature to produce material property is not only the basis of ensuring the society survival but also as a basis for creating other social relationships, create links between human and human, and human and. However, this impact will not be excessive to lead to the break system of human-nature-society, a large and overarching system in living systems, because they are all consistent elements dialectically and most closely, regulate and complement each other in the survival and development process.

By impacting on the natural and modifying the natural, human gradually dominated nature. It is the human's victory, but we are gradually forgetting what Friedrich Engels had reminded for a long time that: "In nature, there is nothing happened alone, this phenomenon impacts on another phenomenon and vice versa" (Friedrich Engels, 1870). If human impacts on nature, change nature in order to serve their own purposes, the nature also has adverse impact on human by corresponding consequences. Human increasingly strong impact on the nature, the society can achieve more in science and technology. But if this influence is not based on an understanding of the natural rules, society rules, the results that we achieve only "the original". When mentioning about this issue, Friedrich Engels also criticized the naturalistic perspective of history that "only the natural affects to humans, only natural conditions in everywhere regulate the development of human history. This view is one-sided; it forgets that humans react again to the natural world, natural modification" (Friedrich Engels, 1870). Nature always moves and develops in accordance with objective rules-the available natural rules. Society is a part of nature - special part separated from the natural world. Humans exist in society, is the product of the evolution of the natural

world, always follow the laws of nature and society. Since humans and human society have appeared, the nature has been developed more plentifully. The impact of nature on society is spontaneous, and the impact of society on nature is intended, so the impact of humans on nature will take place in two different directions: impacting properly as the rule make the natural developed, develop society, and improve human life. In contrast, if people impact on nature and not follow the rule, this will make nature poorly, and the relationship among nature-human- society will be broken. . Historically, we have had civilizations developed brilliantly as the Mayan civilization that Friedrich Engels cited, but unfortunately until today it only recorded mark on the historical pages. The reason is because people and their hand of man has affected excessively to nature. Therefore, has reminded us that "we absolutely cannot dominate the natural world as an aggressor to dominate another nation, like a person living outside the natural world ... All our nature domination are because of us, we are different from all the other creatures since we are aware of the nature laws of nature and can use those laws correctly" (Friedrich Engels, 1870). On the other hand, in order to resolve the conflict between human and nature, human is only based on the awareness, but also have a change in actions, particularly the change in the manufacturing process.

Once again confirming we completely can dominate nature with different levels but "we should not be too proud of our successes against the natural world, because every time we achieve victory natural world, nature fight against us" (Friedrich Engels, 1870). That revenge "often unpredictable" and "often destroy all the first results". That has been happening in developing countries.

#### ***Overview of the current situation of environmental pollution in developing countries***

Environmental scientists estimated environmental level of dust and noxious gases SO<sub>2</sub>, CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, in the air in industrial areas are often higher than 4-6 times the allowable standards. Factories producing aluminum, phosphate, potash, plastic, matches also release large amounts of phosphorus and oxide into the atmosphere. The industrial waste containing radioactive substances cause environmental pollution threat. In Bangkok (Thailand) has 23,000 operating factories, 7,500 tons of waste were discharged every day. Capital Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), previously was known as a "quagmire" with tin mining areas, with sparse population density, now it has been expanded by 50 km<sup>2</sup> spread across the hills. Due to the high hardness of hilly land, the construction of high buildings was developed, became a big construction site. People here worried that in the future, they had to live in an environment with full of cement fortress. In Vietnam, due to the development speech of light industry, oil and gas extraction, cement production were grown strongly, environmental pollution in these cities is increasing at an alarming rate.

The population increase at urban is also an important cause of environmental pollution. Urbanization leads to the natural migration from rural to urban. The urban population increased too fast, infrastructure was weak, and so the atmosphere and living environment were harmed seriously.

Manila (Philippines) is considered one of the most polluted cities in the world. This city has 3 million vehicles over 6 million people. Waste from vehicles was the main cause of air pollution for the city. On the other hand, every day Manila has to receive 600 tons of emissions, equal to 1/3 of the total emissions in the large cities of Philippines. The Health Ministry said the country has about 500,000 Philippines people annually died and 1.2 million people to treat diseases caused by the impact of environmental pollution.

The air pollution in China is more alarming. According to a report published by the World Health Organization in 2013, in 10 cities of the most serious air pollution in the world, China accounted for 7 cities. The air pollutants of China is very huge (SO<sub>2</sub>, CO, NO, HC), the industrial serious dust and gas are exceeding the standard. According to tested data in 599 cities in 2013, the city qualified level 1, level 2, level 3 and level 3 on the turn is 4.3%; 58.1%; 28.5%; 9.1% (2).

However, India is the most alarming environmental pollution country in the world. A research of the environmental non-government organization Greenpeace showed that India has overtaken China to become the most polluted country in the world. Accordingly, based on NASA satellite image, analysts said the dust amount which is harmful to the human respiratory fell significantly in China in recent years, while the air quality in India is still not improved.

The satellite image shows the level of material particles PM<sub>2.5</sub> (Particle PM is a term referring to a substance causing air pollution. It is composed of a mixture of solid pieces and drops of pure water in the air. These are tiny pieces which can be easily inhaled and damage people's lungs) harmful to the respiratory fell by 17% in China over the period 2010-2015, whereas in India increased by 13%. In Beijing, the average annual level of PM<sub>2.5</sub> is 81, while New Delhi of India is 128. According to Greenpeace, the Indian people faced the air pollution is much higher than China. While the air quality in China is increasingly high, the pollution in India is becoming worse.

Another serious problem in the existing environmental pollution situation is water shortage and water pollution. According to the announce of the General Department of China Environmental Protection in the "Publication of the environmental situation of China in 2013" evaluation of water quality in the 140,000 km<sup>2</sup> river basin across the country, nearly 40% river water was polluted seriously. Statistics also indicate that in 131 rivers flowing through the city, there are 36 rivers polluted seriously, 21 rivers extremely seriously, and 38 rivers polluted averagely. Pollution level accounted for 87% (Jia Feng, 2013). So now there are about 2/3 Chinese cities are short of clean water, while nearly 300 million people in rural area cannot access to safe drinking water. Although the total amount of water resources in China ranks second in the world, but the per capita rate is low, only 33% of per capita rate in the world (Jia Feng, 2013).

Deforestation in developing countries made forest area decrease disastrously. In Indonesia, due to excessive logging for exporting, each year this country lost 900,000 hectares of forest. Thailand and the Philippines two countries had 30% of the forest area lost in the last 40 years. In Vietnam, the natural forest area fell by 4.15 million hectares (32%), the covered land

area covered decreased by 12% compared to 20 years ago. Watershed forests were devastated; forest area was narrowed down which leads to the destruction of the ecological environment, and is the cause of flooding in Thailand, and Vietnam in recent years. This is also the cause of flooding and soil erosion in the Philippines, and many people were dead and loss up to tens of billion dollars.

The other cause of pollution in developing countries is the exploitation of marine resources indiscriminately. Marine products are consumer and export goods with high position in developing countries, especially ASEAN countries. But in recent years, oil drilling industry, especially the use of dynamite in fishing made environmental pollution of ecological regions become seriously.

According to the estimate of environmental experts of the Asian Development Bank (ADB, 2013), with current economic growth, every year developing countries take tens, hundreds of billion dollars for environmental cleanup activities. This large money amount is threatening national budget of almost countries.

#### ***The necessary of putting environmental protection into the more important position in the transformation of economic development method***

Thus, basically, now in developing countries, despite many attempts, but still not completely change the method of economic development with large investment, high consumption, discharge more and low performance. International monetary crisis reflected clearly the importance and urgency of quickening the transformation of economic development method. Moreover, the environment and natural resource problems are not only economic issues, but also critical issues affecting the economy, social inhibition and related to people's life.

So it is time for developing countries to make three major changes: change from the traditional concept "conquer nature" into thinking "human and nature live together harmony"; shift from the in-depth growth model, resource consumption and serious environmental damage to the model of economic and social development - both good and fast and enhance capability for sustainable development; from perception of simple development of valuing materials and disregard people to concept of developing human totally as key and consider human as origin.

In order to make such major changes, the government of developing countries need to consider environmental protection in the overall the economic- social development, attempt to solve environmental problems thoroughly at the macro level and the national strategy; coordinate and better handle the relationship between environmental protection and economic development, social progress and improve human lives.

Broadly, it is not only the problem of the developing countries but also a global problem. The year 70s of the 20th century took place several international conferences about environment. In 1979 in Geneva (Switzerland), a research program on the world's climate has been launched, under the responsibility of the World Meteorological Organization (OMM), the Program of United Nations for Environment (PNUE) and International Council of Scientific Unions (CIUS).

By 1988, Group of Intergovernmental Experts on Climate Change (GIEC) was established by two bodies OMM and PNUE, with mission of assessing periodically the current situation of human knowledge about climate change.

In the first report in 1990, group GIEC has acknowledged people responsibility in making the earth's atmosphere heat up. Based on this report, Framework Convention of the United Nations on Climate Change (CCNUCC) was composed.

The Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro 1992 can be said as a decisive step in the international negotiations on climate with the signing of agreement CCNUCC. This convention is effective from 21.03.1994, and is approved by 196 countries together with European Union. The objective of the convention is to keep emission level causing the greenhouse effect at a stable level in order to not derange dangerously the earth climate system.

Through many conferences, negotiations among parties (COP-Conference of parties), on 12.12.2015, the agreement against the global climate change has been officially adopted at the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP21 in Paris (France). Accordingly, all 196 parties joining the Framework Convention of United Nations on climate (UNFCCC) came to an agreement to force all countries to reduce carbon emissions. Agreement is partly legal, and partly voluntary. The most important objective of this agreement is to keep global temperature increases at this century below 2 degrees Celsius, and then attempt to reduce to 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial era. The agreement also requires that, in order to help developing countries move from using fossil fuels to green energy and adapt to climate change, the developed countries will provide \$100 billion USD per year.

However, before receiving practical assistance from developed countries, developing countries must "deliver by their own" by the basic national policy of saving resources and protecting the environment, promote the importance of environmental protection in developing economy- society, especially the role of switching method and adjustment structure, the key point is to put the mechanism of environmental protection into structural adjustment content and transformation of economic models, efforts to form institutions, mechanisms and long-term dynamics of scientific development.

#### ***Some suggestions to address environmental issues in transformation of economic development methods in the developing countries***

*Firstly*, it is important to focus more on the role of creative autonomy. Governments of developing countries should consider creative autonomy as a breakthrough to transform development mode, and is the basic point of the strategy, take the unique creative autonomy path of each country, promote transforming and upgrading industries and techniques, grab green technology as the core, both can promote the key role and able to lead the direction of green development. At the same time, creative thinking of environmental protection should be applied totally in the industry, agriculture and transportation, construction and services, implementation of environmental policy to the production, circulation, distribution and consumption, from the whole production process to build

an environmental protection system in the economic- social development. It is necessary to strengthen building key energy-saving economic construction, develop economic circulation, and the environmental protection industry. Accelerating research, development and application of low carbon techniques is also essential.

*Secondly*, it is necessary to transform government's functions. As the implementation of public power, people who propose policies and methods and control economic activities decided that government is the steadfast force to complete market system, play a leading role, and impact on green development and transformation of economic development method. Adapting to requirements of promoting green development and changing development way, it is needed to change institutions, mechanism, moving from leading economic development to providing basic public services and create the good economic development environment, better promote the role of market resource allocation, moving from actively intervene to actively serve. For example, completing green credit, green taxes and green trade policies promote responsibility for environmental pollution, build a full list accompanying with economic environmental policy, build and complete instructions of eliminating heavily polluted enterprises, and coordinate with related agencies in increasing wastewater charges and standards of collecting wastage processing fees, actively promote compensation and trade the wastage discharge right. Implementing control the total pollutant discharge, strictly implement plan reducing target of total pollution discharge amount issued by the state, apply completely wastage discharge licensing.

*Thirdly*, promoting the role of the market mechanism should be paid more attention. Only new market mechanism may contact to beneficial entity of green development, transformation development method; the market rules decide. Price and tax are effective methods to solve the problem of resources, the environment, need handle pollution at key industries, construction, strengthen ecological compensation mechanisms, and change fundamentally wastage and low efficiency in resources use. Therefore, promoting green development and transforming economic development method have to use the market power. In order to promote further the market role and complete incentives and constraints, the inside power of businesses as well as the whole society in reducing emission should be reduced.

*Fourthly*, technological innovation, scientific research promotion, development and application of technology in handling environmental pollution are important. Currently we live in an era with full of strong volatility. One of the important efforts makes the changes that are science and technology revolution. Remarkable feature of the new society in intellectual civilization, in the "information society" is the transition process of economic development method in developing countries that is no longer based primarily on natural resources natural or simple labor force, but mainly based on scientific and technology knowledge. Science and technology is becoming a powerful tool to create material wealth, the necessary precondition for the unity between environmental protection and transformation of economic development method in the developing countries. However, the

application of science and technology in the production process should also see the dark side. Therefore, it is needed to choose the high-tech industry, consume less energy, and have system to reuse waste, making waste recycled into material for another industry, to avoid maximum putting the waste directly into the environment.

Fifthly, the success of the United Nations Submit COP21 in Paris (France) showed that in order to solve the environmental protection problems in economic development, the countries must cooperate closely with each other. Therefore, developing countries need to build cooperation strategy, mobilize maximum and use effectively international resources; focus on promoting international cooperation at the local level in each country; collaborate with other countries and international organizations to monitor, detect, prevent and strictly punish behavior transferring waste and obsolete technology caused polluting the environment. On the other hand, the developing countries also need to implement well the international commitments to protect the environment, contribute to the global environment protection for the survival of humanity.

## CONCLUSION

Combining transformation of economic development method with environmental protection for sustainable development is an important strategy to ensure the victory of the green development that is beneficial for people in developing countries. Environmental protection for sustainable development is not only for the present generation but also for future generation; this is becoming a powerful trend of humanity, and a revolution in thinking and action of everyone not only in developing countries but also all over the world. A clean environment within a sustainable development economy is being considered the highest social value today. It is both a duty and a target that developing countries look toward to the future.

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