

《通向可持续发展的亚洲》

图书基本信息

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前言

Asia is an important continent with population of 3.8 billion and concentrates most developing countries in the world. Over the last several decades, many nations in Asia have seen quick economic development, while some strategic resources needs in Asia increase simultaneously. In the next 20 years and even long terms of the 21st century natural resources demand in Asia will increase largely. Asia occupies the important position of the resources supply and demand in the world. It has not only some key resources producing countries in the world, but main resources consuming countries as well. Unfortunately, Asian economic progress in general has been achieved at a high cost. Under combined pressure of climatic change and human disturbances, the natural environment in Asia has been steadily degrading, which compromises the future development and the livelihood of its huge residents. Impacts of climate change are especially visible in Asia on various sectors including agriculture, forestry, biodiversity conservation, water resources, human health, air quality, energy security, and others. Climate change related environmental deteriorations in Asia are already serious, and will very likely further worsen in future which is continuously challenging the sustainability of natural resources. In 2008 the Association of Academies of Sciences in Asia (AASA) initiated a project of "Sustainable Development in Asia" which includes four research groups of energy, natural resources, environment and culture. In regard to the task of natural resources, it is required to take grasp of the status of natural resources in Asia, identify some common problems and challenges, summarize successful efforts that some countries in Asia have made, and propose several major projects and policy recommendations for sustainable use of natural resources in Asia. To implement this task appointed by the whole project framework, we carried out large amounts of desk survey of literature review, data and information production, translation and dissemination of case studies that documented some so-called "best practices and models" of effective and sustainable use of resources in each country of Asia. A final policy report has been created and circulated among some limited scholar community.

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内容概要

《通向可持续发展的亚洲:自然资源可持续利用(英文版)》力图系统地分析亚洲国家主要自然资源可持续利用现状,指出亚洲各国在资源开发利用方面存在的共同问题和面临的挑战,归纳和总结典型国家在资源可持续利用方面的成功经验,并提出亚洲自然资源可持续利用的重大项目和政策性建议。

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插图： Rapid industrialization and urbanization process, as well as limited water and sewage treatment facilities, make the situation of water scarcity in West Asia increasingly serious. There is enormous pressure for Mashriq and Yemen, agriculture-based countries in West Asia, to meet the increasing water demand by limited funds. In the area, urban water rapidly grew, from 7.8 billion m³ in 1990, to 11 billion m³ in 2000, by an increase of 40% (UNESCWA, 2003). Although majority of people can make utilization of treated drinking water, low-income areas have poor water services; number of large cities like Sana'a, Amman and Damascus are facing the more serious water shortages. Poor water quality affects health, which has aroused great concern, and the key reason is that large amount of untreated water was used in irrigation, poor sanitation, and poor waste management. In addition, over-exploitation of groundwater has led to a lot of dry springs, damaging the surrounding historical and cultural heritages. Typical example is Palma Oasis in Syria; large number of the historical fountains in the area dried, and had a significant impact on the surrounding historical Kingdom of Zambia. Inefficient water resource management and utilization resulted in more water scarcity. In the Gulf countries, with an average consumption of 300-750 liters/capita/day they rank among the highest in the world (IUCN & WESCANA, 2007). The reason is in the lack of proper demand management mechanisms and price signals. Government policies focus on the supply side of water production management, with low water fee averaging less than 10% of the cost, not conducting consumers to save water.

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