



# CHINESE-DANISH COOPERATION TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

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**STRATEGIC SECTOR COOPERATION**  
Partnering with Denmark for the Sustainable  
Development Goals



*The Chinese authorities are struggling with air pollution from both transport and industry. Danish authorities have now joined the fight against pollution. A new Strategic Sector Cooperation project between the Danish Ministry of Environment and Food and Chinese authorities will through exchanges of knowledge and experience help China tackle the country's growing problem with air pollution.*

The Danish-Chinese cooperation involves a number of projects that focus on urban planning and transport in Chinese cities.

It seeks to ensure a better system that can contribute to enforce regulation on pollution control in transport and industry. It will work towards introducing Danish inspection methods, including inspection of companies.

*“Air pollution is a major challenge in China and this project will help enforce legislation that already exists in this area. We will help China based on the experiences we have had in Denmark,”* says Michael Rasmussen, senior advisor for the Danish Environmental Protection Agency.

China has already taken significant measures to eliminate air pollution with the adoption of a new major action plan, AIR 10, which aims at tackling air pollution in the country.

### **DANISH SOLUTIONS PAVE THE WAY**

Danish authorities have extensive experience within the field of air pollution and can therefore bring Danish expertise into play.

*“It is primarily about exchanging experiences with the Chinese authorities as Denmark and China have very different starting points. Whereas the air in Denmark is very clean, China continues to grapple with many major challenges,”* explains Christian Lange Fogh, chief consultant for the Danish Environmental Protection Agency.

Denmark has several specific examples of how to regulate transport and implement local initiatives to mitigate air pollution that will be presented to the Chinese authorities.

*“In Denmark we have experience with environmental zones, which, for example, place requirements on lorries and buses that drive in and through Denmark’s four largest cities. As a result, we are further ahead in some areas than the Chinese, which is where they can learn from our experiences,”* Christian Lange Fogh elaborates.

### **DANISH ACCESS TO THE CHINESE MARKET**

Through this cooperation Denmark can achieve stronger ties to China and learn how the Chinese system works. Consequently, relations between the Danish and Chinese authorities can in time benefit Danish businesses.

*“This cooperation will enable us to make valuable ties and create contacts with the Chinese authorities, which will make it easier for Danish businesses to enter the Chinese market. The project offers plenty of opportunities that can lead to spin-offs that in time can generate an increase in Danish exports,”* concludes Christian Lange Fogh.



### **FACTS**

Air pollution is an extremely visible and therefore a high priority environmental problem in China. The authorities have acknowledged and prioritised the problem in recent years, implementing important initiatives to tackle air pollution. The air pollution comes primarily from production of heat and electricity as well as industry and transport. Particulate pollution, expressed as PM2.5, has been reduced from 70.2 ug/m<sup>3</sup> in 2013 to 46.7 ug/m<sup>3</sup> in 2016 on average nationally. However, in 89 of the 366 largest cities pollution levels continue to rise.

Already, there are difficulties achieving the more modest 2017 goal. There is, thus, an increased focus on enforcement of legislation/emission requirements. Based on recent announcements from Chinese authorities, it has been assessed that these efforts will be further strengthened in the coming years. The tightened enforcement is likely to improve the market for Danish technology considerably. There are currently two Danish companies with a permanent presence in China (Haldor Topsøe and Force). In addition, around ten smaller companies operate in China on a more ad hoc basis. In recent years, there has been a growth rate of almost 10% for Danish clean air companies on the Chinese market.

### **CONTACT**

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