Event Report

BUILDING A ZERO-Carbon, CLIMATE-RESILIENT FUTURE

Creating Zero-carbon and Climate Resilient Future
“It is important that countries ensure their policies not only keep pace with technological developments but also encourage to apply them to sustainable development – a win-win for the environment and the economy.”

Devanan Ramiah
Deputy Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) China
“Change the use of internal combustion engines to achieve a virtuous cycle. Implement the policy to drive innovation.”

Helen Clarkson
Chief Executive Officer, The Climate Group
Event Summary

The adoption of the Paris Climate Agreement calls for a collaborative effort to reduce man-made greenhouse gas emissions based on nationally determined targets and provides a roadmap for global transformation towards a zero-carbon, climate-resilient future. To deliver this, all stakeholders must come together to accelerate and scale innovation and climate action.

In 2018, most developed countries achieved reductions of around 2% to 3%, but it was China who led the world, with a year on year reduction of more than 5%, driven by, amongst other things, a 71% increase in solar power and a 20% increase in wind energy. In the last decade, China has reduced its carbon intensity by 41%, and planted 7 million hectares of trees.

Supported by the Department of Ecology and Environment, the Department of Commerce and the Office of Foreign Affairs of the Hainan Provincial Government of China, and co-organised with local partner HIMICE, Global Initiatives hosted the first Responsible Business Forum (RBF) on Climate Innovation in Haikou, China, on May 23rd and 24th, 2019.

RBF China brought together 300 leaders from policy makers, global companies, start-ups, investors and international organisations, to discuss zero-carbon innovative solutions for a sustainable and climate-resilient future and built cross-level meaningful partnerships for climate action.

Private sector stakeholders such as SIG, Interface, CLP, BASF, Mars, Alibaba, AB InBev, Apple, Lenovo and Shenzhen Energy Group, as well as global-drivers of sustainability, such as Rocky Mountain Institute, The Institute of Public & Environmental Affairs (IPE), Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology (SEE), China Green Carbon Foundation, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and The Climate Group participated in the two day forum.
During presentations and high level roundtable discussions, key commitments were announced and developed among the participants:

The Hainan Provincial Government provided an overview of their more green and innovative policy measures, leading the way as a global trading hub as the province is developed as a free trade zone. They have sped up the promotion of clean energy vehicles by setting a clear timeline for phasing out the use of fossil fuels: government and public transportation will be clean energy driven by 2020, and petrol and diesel cars will be totally eliminated from Hainan by 2030.

The city of Huangshi, in partnership with 100 Resilient Cities, unveiled its urban resilience strategy for this historic industrial city. It was the first city in China to undertake an urban resilience approach to planning when it joined the 100RC network in 2014. Huangshi Vice Mayor, Wu Zhiling, shared the city’s experience in setting up innovative governance structure and embedding resilience thinking into their initiatives. The Huangshi Resilience Strategy has three thematic areas and eighteen initiatives to transform local industry from consuming natural resources to being clean and low carbon. Huangshi aims to restore water ecosystems and enable a livable environment with a high quality lifestyle.

CLP Group has committed to transitioning its fleet of more than 1,000 cars to electric vehicles (EVs) by 2030 and encourages more employees to switch to EVs. CLP Group has become the first Hong Kong based company to join the global EV100 initiative run by The Climate Group.

The Forum also presented cutting-edge climate innovations from large corporations and start-ups:

Interface presented their climate take-back solution to reverse engineer carbon emissions with a focus on low-carbon raw material solutions. SIG committed to collaborate with stakeholders on building an ecosystem for sustainable packaging for the food and beverage industry.

Representing climate innovators from China and India, the startups XAG and Cropin shared big data solutions and drone technology for a smart and sustainable future for agriculture.

RBF China hosted six parallel sessions which took a deeper look at the specific challenges and solutions on a sector by sector basis. Innovators from private industry and experts from international organisations and think tanks discussed the partnerships, investments and policy changes needed to accelerate and scale zero carbon innovations for a climate positive future.
Event Summary

During the feedback session by the moderators from the six parallel sessions, the RBF China audience voted on the key initiatives that had been proposed, with the following results:

**Building and Urban Infrastructure**
1. Create synergies and break down silos throughout the entire ecosystem of the building and construction industry - from end users to developers, to manufacturers, to policymakers and everyone in between
2. Innovation is the road to progress: government to work on innovation policies, entrepreneurs to innovate and innovative approaches to scientists to address climate change
3. Governments need to consider future trends and the actual data and guide the building of infrastructure

**Carbon and Energy**
1. Advocating policymakers to increase transparency for policy setting and pricing for renewable energy procurement
2. Close the financing gap through mainstreaming disclosure for climate and carbon assets
3. Call upon companies to set accurate and ambitious targets and cascade their commitment to supply chains

**Manufacturing**
1. Progressive carbon tax to encourage companies to adopt carbon-neutral and carbon-negative technology
2. Blockchain technology to reduce carbon emissions throughout the supply chain with IoT devices embedded in equipment to automate this process

**Forests and Ecosystems**
1. Adopt ecological methods, especially natural ways to restore and protect forest ecosystems
2. Governments, enterprises, and NGOs to jointly establish a multi-party demand cooperation mechanism to deal with sustainable forest protection and management in the context of climate change
3. Innovation is the road of progress: government to work on innovation policies, entrepreneurs to innovate and innovative approaches to scientists to address climate change

**Transportation and Urban Planning**
1. Governments need to see the future trends and the actual data and guide the building of infrastructure
2. Comprehensive transportation planning
3. Innovative and sustainable mindset, e.g. enhanced waste sorting and treatment

Food and Agriculture
1. Work to solve the trust issue throughout the value chain
2. Empower producers to become more climate-resilient
3. Implement systems performance through new metrics
Speaker Highlights

“Solving the problem of climate change requires a scientific approach, and ultimately it is not through technology, it is solved by people and a change in the human factor. Mars has developed science-based GHG reduction targets, by 2030, Mars will recycle 50% of its own packaging. “

Kevin Rabinovitch
Global Vice President, Sustainability, Mars
Speaker Highlights

“In the past few years, Interface reduced its carbon emissions by 97%, we had to reassess the use of raw materials and improve technology to be more sustainable.”

Erin Meezan
Vice President and Chief Sustainability Officer, Interface

“We need to be clear about the framework on climate change after the year 2020 and let the whole world know of its importance. We will do the overall inspection of the goals of sustainable development, with companies being the main group of focus in the future.”

Vanessa Pérez-Cirera
Global Deputy, Climate and Energy, WWF

“In the climate crisis confronting humanity is an opportunity for innovation and community action, and evidence-based science is critical to influence decision-makers in the region.”

Niall O’Connor
Director, Asia Centre, Stockholm Environment Institute

“Corporate sectors need to work together with policymakers to develop a specific target in their master plan on climate action, such as setting a key target of adopting renewable energy.”

Li Ting
Chief Representative, Rocky Mountain Institute China

“The world we want tomorrow depends on how we do business today. The circular economy will not emerge on its own. The public and private sectors need to work together to change consumption habits, to be more sustainable.”

Ian Burton
President, Mars Wrigley Confectionery China

“The corporate sector should focus on low carbon energy, reduce carbon emissions and achieve 100% low-carbon transportation.”

Zheng Daqing
Senior Vice President, Business and Market Development, Greater China, BASF
“China is recognized for its commitment and efforts made to combat global climate change. However, as its economy is largely comprised of industrial sectors that provide manufacturing for the world, the question of supply chain emissions is particularly important in China.”

Ma Jun  
Director, Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs, China

“Alibaba has leveraged the leading technology in big data and blockchain to reduce carbon emissions in transportation, improve energy efficiency and allow collaborative efforts through mobile payments to finance climate action.”

Tian Feng  
Director, Alibaba Cloud Research Center, Alibaba Group

“The conservation of, and commitment to, preserving our forests and ecosystems is the crucial way to lessen our carbon impact for the foreseeable future.”

Du Yongsheng  
President of the Board, China Green Carbon Foundation (CGCH)

“Innovation has become not a nice-to-have, but a necessity. We must embrace change when building a climate-resilient future. If we can create a new market and meet customers’ evolving energy needs, we will be at the forefront.”

Chan Siu Hung  
Managing Director-China, CLP Holdings Limited

“Public and private sectors should collaborate with each other to promote the development of circular economy, such as recycling of raw materials and products between factories.”

Rolf Stangl  
Chief Executive Officer, SIG

“AbinBev collaborated with BYD and Tesla for low carbon transportation and inform consumers about the recycled material through the tag on the products. By 2025, AbinBev aims to achieve 100% renewable energy throughout the production cycle.”

Frank Wang  
Vice President, APAC, AB InBev
Branding
CLP at RBF China 2019

Opening Discussion Panel
Building a Zero-Carbon, Climate-Resilient Future

Chan Siu Hung
Managing Director-China, CLP Holdings Limited

Parallel Sessions
Carbon and Energy

Alan Chan
Director-Business Development (China), CLP Holdings Limited
Media Highlights

RBF China 2019 received significant media coverage, with top tier publications, journalists, and broadcasters present at the event. Key discussion points by speakers and delegates were featured in a number of prominent print and online media, such as Hainan TV, Toutiao, Sina, Sohu, Netease, ChinaNews, Xinhua News, Hainan Daily and China Green Times just to name a few. Several interviews of government officials, business personnel and international organisations were also conducted by media.
Responsible Business Forum
on Climate Innovation
Haikou, China
23 & 24 May 2019
Audience profile

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Audience Profile by Organisation
Delegates from the private sector including Banking & Finance, Building, Manufacturing & Construction, Consumer Goods, Energy & Renewables represented approximately 52% of the Forum delegates. Other industries represented included Environmental services, Food, Beverage & Agriculture, Forestry & Paper, Electronics and Telecom, Oil, Gas & Mining, Trade & Development, and Transport & Logistics. Also, 26% of the delegates were from International Organisations & Non-profit associations, the rest from Government, Media, Academia and others.

Delegates were drawn from **21 countries**, with **68% from China** and the others from countries including: Australia, Austria, Chile, China, Ecuador, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia, Mexican, Netherlands, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom and United States.
Audience Engagement

In line with our efforts to limit the waste generated at all RBFs, for the third year in a row, the RBF Connect App was instrumental in providing an integrated digital experience for our delegates. With access to the agenda, speakers & sponsor details and attendee lists, RBF Connect was well utilised by the participants at the forum. Delegates had important forum information at their fingertips, and live updates on the schedule. The app also worked as a digital concierge in arranging meetings between the delegates at the forum and helped maximise networking and discussion opportunities. The app also provided a platform for delegates to interact with the speakers through the Q&A feature, as well as participate in the polls and survey. Lastly, RBF Connect was successful in providing a space for delegates to share their updates, images, new relationships and backstage preparation from the forum, which raised the engagement on the app to a higher level.

Youth Engagement

Around 20 students from Hainan University worked closely with the Global Initiatives team and lent their time to assist with registering guests and speakers and to help take notes, photos and quotes from all of the Forum’s sessions. RBF China has engaged the millennials in China through collaboration with China Youth for Climate Action Network (CYCAN) and Hainan University Volunteers Association. CYCAN has engaged 300 universities and influenced one million students through their activities in China. CYCAN action has given strong encouragement to young people to better understand climate change and actively participate in addressing it. The students came from a range of academic backgrounds including law, economics, business studies and international relations and were instrumental in adding a youth perspective to each of the workshops and plenary discussions.
Social media

#RBFCHINA ON TWITTER
54,357 REACH
71 RETWEETS
117 LIKES
42 LINK CLICKS

FACEBOOK LIVE STREAMING
50,610 PEOPLE REACHED
10,000 LIVESTREAM VIEWERS

RBF China articles on 25 Wechat Subscription Media Accounts and 30 influencer’s accounts on Weibo reached out to over 3,000,000 subscribers.
Thank you!
Global Initiatives would like to thank our sponsors for supporting the Responsible Business Forum on Climate Innovation 2019. We look forward to welcoming you to the next forum.

Responsible Business Forum on Sustainable Development 2019
Singapore, 18-19 November 2019. Garden by the Bay, Singapore

Responsible Business Forum on Sustainable Development 2019
Nairobi, Kenya, 3-4 December 2019