

## **Position paper- (a) Securing Water**

I am the member of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP). The topic of my position paper is securing water. The country I represent is Denmark. My name is Cho Ka Man, Carmen and I come from the City University of Hong Kong.

In recent years, UNEP provided support for the government of the less developed countries to tackle the water crisis. Take Sudan as an example, UNEP helped with constructing small dams, implementing ground water recharge, carrying out capacity building to support drought contingency planning in camps and cities, etc. We think that this strategy is effective as the lack of advanced technology and capital are the major difficulties of the less developed countries. Some less developed countries has taken actions to deal with the severe water crisis, such as the Ethiopian government has implemented a program aimed to achieve 100% water accessibility by 2012. However, it is difficult to meet the targets successfully due to the limited resources and capacity of the government. In order to solve the problem of water contamination, some countries has set different penalties, such as China. However, the punishment was not effective. The penalties do not cause great negative impact to the profitable firms.

Denmark is a one of the developed country and has the responsibility in solving this global water challenge. The water consumption of this country comes entirely from the clean, safe and drinkable groundwater. The bacteria and other impurities can be minimized due to the powerful distribution system and the water loss in pipelines can be reduced to below 7%.

This country has implemented integrated water management with a long history, for instance, constructing around 1,400 water treatment plants in Denmark for handling the wastewater before releases to the sea and setting up the highest fresh water price in the world, USD 6.7 per cubic meter. Furthermore, the government of Denmark launched 10-point action program for protecting the water resources, for examples, particularly environmentally harmful pesticides to be removed from the market, contaminated sites to be remediated, enhanced afforestation and nature restoration to protect the groundwater, etc. 'Particularly valuable water abstraction areas' was set up in order to protect the future water supply. A new SEA legislation was implemented in 2004 and aimed to promote the sustainable development in the environment aspect.

Since Denmark realized the importance of protecting the water sources in very early stage and has implemented water management scheme for a long time, we hope we can use our technology and experience to help solve the global water crisis, both the less developed countries and the developed countries. Also, we will explore more solutions in order to create a more comprehensive water management scheme in the own country.

## **Reference**

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## **Position paper-(b) Precaution and Response to Oil Spill**

I am the member of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP). The topic of my position paper is securing water. The country I represent is Denmark. My name is Cho Ka Man, Carmen and I come from the City University of Hong Kong.

Oil is one of the most essential fossil fuel for many countries. The oil spill incident in the transport process should be concerned due to the significant negative effects to both the environment and human. Many countries have taken some actions in preventing and handling those incidents, such as the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 in U.S. Although there are regular meetings take place, for instance, the Oil Spill Prevention Containment and Countermeasures (SPCC) program by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the scale was limited so it is not effective in the international collaboration.

Denmark is a net export oil country. The oil production rose steadily from 1972 and reached a peak in 2004. However, the production declined after the peak and the production averaged was 245kb/d in 2010. There are 19 production fields concentrate in the Danish North Sea. The country has one crude oil pipeline connecting the offshore production to the export terminal. Also, there is a product pipeline system from Germany to Jutland and from Jutland to Zealand as well. On the demand side, the total oil use decline at an average rate of 2.7% since 2001.

The Danish Energy Authority (DEA) was established to handle all matters related to energy, such as prepares an implementation plan and submits to the minister. When there is a crisis, the DEA would propose emergency response measures and may have a meeting of the Danish Oil Advisory Board prior to a decision. Besides, the Ministry of Defense is responsible for the pollution of oil or other harmful substances at sea and in coastal water. The Royal Danish Navy is responsible for the National Contingence Arrangement, such as they will decide whether a combating of operation should be launched in the incident of oil spill. Besides, the government requires the oil drilling and producing companies must have their contingency plans and equipment in place. EPA must approve these plans.

Our goals are to minimize the probability of the oil spill occurrence and the negative impacts to both the economy and the environment. Therefore, the government will put more effort in making the transport system of the oil be more effective and safe. Also, more resources should be put into the research and development of the technology in handling the oil spill incidents.

### **Reference**

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