







# **INVITATION**

## BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT AND BUSINESS LECTURE SERIES : HOW TO MANAGE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENT

# Venue: UNDP China, No.2 LiangMaHe NanLu, Beijing, China Time: 13:30-17:30, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019

It is our great pleasure to invite you to Lecture No.1 of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Sustainable Investment and Business Lecture Series: How to Manage Environmental and Social Risks of Overseas Investment. It is jointly initiated by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) China and the Phoenix Satellite TV Research Institute of Sustainable Enterprises for the Earth and Development, and co-sponsored by ERM China.

With increasing demands of the host governments, communities, financial institutions and investors for project sustainability, whether mergers and acquisitions or greenfield investment, effective identification and management of related risks is the fundamental guarantee to maximize the interests of shareholders. In addition to the traditional legal, financial and other risks, environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues have risen up to one of the key factors affecting the success or failure of the project. Therefore, through the discussion and sharing of guests, this lecture is looking forward to solving the following problems progressively in order to help Chinese enterprises achieve sustainable development overseas: the main contents of the social and environmental risks faced by Chinese enterprises in overseas investment, the significance of paying attention to them, the way to identify and efficiently manage risks, the risk-related stakeholders and the way in which they should interact.

# Agenda

	Time	Content	Speaker
	13:30 - 13:50	Opening Speech	TBC UNDP China HE Daguang Executive Vice President of Phoenix Satellite TV Piers Touzel Country Manager of ERM China
	13:50 - 14:50	How to Effectively Manage the Risk of Overseas Investment through Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)?	DU Minlei ERM Principal Consultant, Outbound ESIA and Sustainable Finance Service SHEN Yang ERM Senior Consultant, Social Specialist
	14:50-15:10	Tea Break	
5	15:10 – 16:50	Panel Discussion: Social and Environmental Risk Management from the Perspective of Different Stakeholders Sharing of Experiences and Lessons learned Opportunities and Challenges Potential Areas of Cooperation in the Future	<ol> <li>Representative of Chinese Enterprises: China CAMC Engineering Co., LTD.</li> <li>Representative of Chinese Enterprises: China Three Gorges Corporation</li> <li>Representative of Chinese Enterprises: Jereh</li> <li>Representative of Foreign Enterprises: ERM</li> <li>Representative of Foreign Enterprises: Shell (China)</li> <li>Representative of Multilateral Development Banks: AIIB</li> <li>Representative of the Chamber of Commerce: China International Contractors Association</li> <li>Moderator: ZHANG Xiaowen, Head of Phoenix Satellite TV Research Institute of Sustainable Enterprises for the Earth and Development</li> </ol>
	16:50 – 17:00	Closing Speech and Announcement of the Demand Survey Results	WANG Yalin, Head of United Nations Development Programme Sustainable Investment and Business Group
	17:00 - 17:30	Cocktail Party	

#### Contact Person:

**Sophia Xu** Tel: +86 (10) 84400686 - 812 E-mail:sophia.xu@erm.com



The business of sustainability

The business of sustainability

#### Annex:

## Belt and Road Initiative Sustainable Investment and Business Lecture Series

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs), signed by world leaders in September 2015, calls on enterprises to make full use of their financial, technological and networking advantages to actively participate in the achievement of the goals, and to contribute to the win-win situation of the global economy, environment and society. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is committed to promoting global economic development and achieving mutual benefit and win-win results, creating opportunities for sustainable development at the global, regional and national levels. As the practitioners of the Belt and Road Initiative, enterprises will make significant contributions to the realization of global Sustainable Development Goals if they pay attention to the balance and synergy of economy, society and environment in the process of investment.

The global economy faces both growing opportunities and increasingly severe challenges. In order to create a selfconducive environment to their own business, any multinational enterprise has to face all kinds of risks and challenges from the host country, and there are no exceptions for Chinese enterprises. It requires that enterprises should not only pay attention to their economic benefits, but also manage the potential social and environmental risks effectively. By building the sustainable development soft power, it is helpful for enterprises to establish a good corporate image in the fiercely competitive international market, build brand value and loyalty, and thereby become a respected firstclass multinational enterprise.

Since 2015, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has cooperated with Chinese government departments and their think tanks, including Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation (CAITEC), Stateowned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council (SASAC) and All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce (ACFIC), etc. Through the regular release of the "Report on the Sustainable Development of Chinese Enterprises Overseas" and its global roadshow activities, it is demonstrated the good practices and potential challenges of Chinese enterprises, as well as building a dialogue platform between Chinese enterprises and international community. As an all-media group covering Chinese people all over the world, the Phoenix Satellite TV has been devoting to spreading the overseas sustainable development practices of Chinese enterprises through TV programs like the "Odyssey of the Dragon". The Research Institute of Sustainable Enterprises for the Earth and Development was established in 2019 in order to construct a cooperative platform for international organizations, governments, think tanks and enterprises to spread the "Voice of China" more professionally. Based on the common goals, UNDP and Phoenix Satellite TV signed a memorandum for strategic cooperation on overseas sustainable development case studies and dissemination, training and pilot projects for Chinese enterprises. As one of the contents of the cooperation between the two sides, the Belt and Road Initiative Sustainable Investment and Business Series Lecture will focus on the practical problems faced by Chinese enterprises. Relevant government departments, international organizations, think tanks, financial institutions, advisory agencies and non-governmental organizations will be invited to answer questions in different fields. By setting up an exchange and sharing platform for Chinese enterprises to learn from each other, Chinese enterprises will better practice sustainable development overseas.

## **About this Lecture**

Recently, UNDP conducted a survey of more than 700 Chinese enterprises investing in Belt and Road Initiative related countries. According to the results, the main challenges faced by enterprises are focus on financing, laws and regulations, labor relations, community participation and environmental issues. In terms of Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) which is able to effectively identify potential risks, only 21% of enterprises in the survey completed the assessment and implemented recommendations for improvement. On the other hand, with increasing demands from host governments and communities, financial institutions and investors for project sustainability, whether mergers or greenfield investment, effective identification and management of related risks before investment is the fundamental guarantee to maximize the interests of shareholders. In addition to the traditional legal, financial and other risks, Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues have risen up to one of the key factors affecting the success or failure of the project. Currently, China's new (expansion) projects are facing increasingly stringent investment license reviews (including Environmental and Social Impact Assessment), while the attitude of the affected communities, NGOs, medias and other stakeholders in the host country are also gradually affecting the enterprises' access to local operations. In short, in order to ensure the approval, financing and community recognition of the project, with meeting the requirements of the host countries, it is necessary to pay more attention to the international standards and take it into account to fully identify and manage social and environmental risks in the process of overseas investment.

In light of this, this lecture hopes to help enterprises solve the following puzzles through sharing and discussion by guests:

- 1. Why? Why should Chinse enterprises pay attention to social and environmental risks in the process of overseas investment?
- 2. What? What are the main social and environmental risks faced by Chinese enterprises in overseas investment? How to identify and manage them effectively?
- 3. Who? Which stakeholders will have an impact on the social and environmental risks of overseas investment by Chinese enterprises? How should they interact?

#### **Institute Introduction**

#### United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The UNDP is committed to promoting sustainable development of human, helping countries to improve their adaptive capacity and helping people to create a better life. Over the past 40 years, as a global network of United Nations engaging in development, UNDP has fully utilized its global development experience to support China in formulating solutions to the development challenges and provide assistance for China to carry out South-South cooperation and participate in global development. The current key areas of work of UNDP China are poverty reduction, good governance, crisis prevention and recovery, and energy and environment.

#### Phoenix Satellite TV Research Institute of Sustainable Enterprises for the Earth and Development

Phoenix Satellite TV Research Institute of Sustainable Enterprises for the Earth and Development was initiated and established during the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in 2019, with the authentication of international organizations such as United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). With the mission of promoting global partnership and achieving The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the institute collects best cases from the sustainable development practices of countries around the world, including China. Combining the government functions, enterprise decision-making and professional views from non-governmental organizations and academia, the institute established a complete research system to provide comprehensive solutions to the challenges faced by emerging enterprises, as well as improving the level of various countries in the field of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) sustainable development research.

#### ERM

As one of the world's largest consulting firms specializing in providing Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and environmental, occupational health, social and safety due diligence, ERM is willing to do its best to cooperate with Chinese enterprises in the domestic and third-party markets, by mobilizing its resources of more than 160 offices and more than 5000 experts in over 40 countries and territories around the world. We understand that enterprises are facing great challenges in addressing increasingly stringent local regulations and business environments. Our team will assist enterprises in conducting environmental and social impact assessment and due diligence in the process of overseas investment. ERM also provides regulatory licensing services for investment projects, including licensing applications, environmental and social impact assessment, land requisition, relocation and resettlement, occupational health and safety, and risk management etc., to assist clients in meeting local and international requirements, and to help project financing, saving investment time and development costs.