A Coexisting Strategy of Economic Development and Environmental Protection

Jianbo Zhang

De Montfort University, Leicester, LE2 7DR, England

Abstract. It is impossible to separate economic development from industrial development. It should be noted, however, that industrial development has a detrimental effect on the environment. Consequently, pollution of the environment will require a large number of workers and material resources to control, which is contrary to the original intention of economic development. The development of economic activity should not ignore environmental protection but should strive for a common development of economic development and environmental protection and integrate environmental protection awareness into economic planning so that economic growth and environmental protection can be mutually beneficial. This type of economic development is considered low-level, assuming that environmental resources are consumed without limit, and environmental governance issues are ignored. Our organization pursues a high-level and sustainable economic development strategy. Therefore, we need a high-level and sustainable strategy for economic development. As a result, we hope this paper will serve as a reference for those interested in symbiotic development that considers economic development and environmental protection as research subjects.

Keywords: Economic Development; Environmental Protection; Symbiotic Development; Development Strategy.

1. Introduction

With the development of the economy, closely related environmental problems have attracted more and more attention. Seeking the symbiosis between economic development and environmental protection has become a global problem. Environmental pollution and ecological damage in China have become important factors that endanger people's health and restrict economic development and social stability. Therefore, it is essential and urgent to conduct in-depth research on the symbiosis between economic development and environmental protection. China is also firmly making efforts to shift from high-speed to high-quality development, which is the theme of China's future economic development. With implementing and developing policies, seeking more efficient and feasible economic development strategies is imperative. High-quality economic development should be sustainable and based on environmental protection. This article briefly introduces and analyzes environmental governance's main content and status.

2. Main Contents and Current Situation of Environmental Governance

2.1 Water Pollution Control

Water is the source of life, and people's daily life is inseparable from water resources, so the pollution of water resources will endanger human health through people's daily use. Water pollution is due to the entry of some media, which leads to changes in its chemical, physical, biological, and other characteristics, affecting water use and destroying the ecological environment and human health. When people develop heavy industries for economic development, it is easy to cause water pollution due to unreasonable sewage treatment. Once water pollution occurs, it often requires systematic industrial upgrading and updating related technologies to deal with it, which also puts forward higher requirements for further water pollution control. Water pollution makes water that does not meet safety standards harmful to the human body and aggravates the shortage of water resources. Especially in some areas where water resources are relatively scarce, water pollution will significantly

impact the local ecological environment and residents' water use. In Yunnan, Tibet, Qinghai, and other western regions, in the case of congenital deficiency and acquired shortage, rapid urbanization needs to consume a lot of water resources, which brings more significant pressure on water resources. China's current minimal and overused water resources make it impossible to meet the needs of nearly 1.4 billion people. Despite this scarcity of water resources, many water resources are still recklessly wasted.

2.2 Air Pollution Control

Each of us needs air, and air quality affects human health. Air pollution is one of the important factors of environmental pollution that cannot be ignored. With the continuous development of the industrial level, air pollution is becoming more and more serious. Air pollution is the phenomenon in which pollutants in the atmosphere reach harmful levels, exceed environmental standards, destroy ecosystems and normal human living conditions, and cause harm to people and property. The current air pollution is mainly due to manufactured factors, such as carbon and pollutant gas emissions. These unclean gases and treatment methods have gradually aggravated the air pollution situation. Air pollution is very harmful to human beings and the environment. The harm of air to human beings can be divided into chronic poisoning, acute poisoning, and carcinogenic. For agriculture, it will affect the growth of plants and the acidification of plant water, making organisms extinct. Also, greenhouse gas emissions are still the primary source of air pollution. Global warming caused by greenhouse gases has led to the destruction of the living environment of many species and various natural disasters. Currently, China's carbon peaking and carbon neutrality goals are critical to controlling air pollution, to curb global warming and climate change by reducing carbon emissions.

3. The Impact of Economic Development on the Environment

3.1 Short-term Impact of Economic Development on the Surrounding Environment

To achieve efficient and rapid economic growth, the government needs to build an industrial system, actively develop existing resources for production and manufacturing, and achieve rapid economic development in the short term. However, such an economic development model lacks environmental control and is prone to environmental overuse, leading to environmental destruction and affecting the surrounding ecological environment. In the short term, economic development tends to cause damage to the environment. Such an economic development model cannot be sustained for a long time. Suppose the impact of economic development on the environment cannot be dealt with in a timely and effective manner. In that case, it will quickly lead to the deterioration of the environment and cause a vicious circle. Therefore, due to the demand for economic development, during the period of rapid economic development, economic development and environmental protection are in opposition to each other and show a trend of ebb and flow.

3.2 The Long-term Impact of Economic Development on the Environment

In the long run, economic development and environmental protection can promote each other, and economic development can promote the protection of the ecological environment. When the economy develops to a certain level, promoting industrial upgrading can provide more support for environmental protection and introduce more green and environmental protection industries to boost environmental protection and ecological construction, thereby improving the quality of environmental protection. Environmental protection will also affect economic development. Environmental management and improvement promote upgrading the country's economy and industry, making the economy greener and more long-lasting. In addition, the government supports environmental protection by introducing creative and innovative enterprises and uses these enterprises to create more economic value and boost economic development.

4. Strategies for Promoting the Symbiosis of Economic Development and Environmental Protection

4.1 Taking Green GDP as an Index to Measure Economic Development

At present, green GDP is one of the critical indicators for measuring the sustainability and quality of economic development referenced generally by countries worldwide. It mainly refers to the final result of a country or region's economic activities after considering natural resources and environmental factors, that is, the calculation result after deducting environmental resource costs and environmental resource protection and service fees from the current GDP. For green GDP accounting, the essential feature is to consider the environment and resources separately and use environmental factors as an essential indicator to measure economic development, establishing an account of resources and the environment to further supplement the national economy's accounting system. The transition from traditional GDP accounting to green GDP accounting reflects that the role and status of the environment in economic development have received more recognition, and the economic value created by the environment and resources has been recognized [1]. It can be seen that green GDP can reflect not only the level of economic growth but also the degree of harmony and unity between economic growth and natural protection, which can well reflect the ideas and requirements of the concept of sustainable development. Green GDP accounting is helpful for us to truly measure and evaluate the actual effect of economic growth activities, overcome the one-sided pursuit of economic growth rate, and promote the transformation of economic growth mode. Furthermore, it can improve performance based on GDP and raise public awareness of environmental resources and conservation.

4.2 Develop a Low-Carbon Economy to Achieve a Win-Win Situation between Economic Development and Ecological Civilization Construction

A low-carbon economy is crucial to promote the harmonious coexistence of environmental protection and economic development. Low-carbon economy not only improves the environment and ecological level but also promotes the upgrading of traditional national industries and helps to shift to industries with lower carbon and environmental protection, replacing the original industries with high pollution and high energy consumption. Moreover, the government will get a higher economic benefit on this basis. Judging from the results of the traditional high-pollution industrial development model, the carbon emission intensity contained in GDP under this economic development model accounts for a relatively large proportion. The development has vast hidden dangers, which are not conducive to the long-term healthy development of the economy [2]. Therefore, the comprehensive development of a low-carbon economy, clean energy, and promotion of green growth has become the golden key to solving this dilemma. Specifically, a low-carbon economy is a form of economic development based on low energy consumption, low pollution, and low emissions based on scientific development. Realize a win-win situation for economic development and environmental protection. For example, BYD is a leader in new energy development in China. BYD is researching electric vehicles powered by lithium batteries. This technology is a well-known example of improving energy efficiency and developing a low-carbon economy [3].

4.3 Acceleration of Industrial Upgrading and Transformation of Economic Growth Mode

Taking into account the long-term, high-quality growth of the economy and the protection of the environment, accelerating the upgrading and maintenance of the industrial chain is an important means of boosting economic development. Moreover, achieving a win-win situation of maintaining growth and environmental construction is essential. Economic development is inseparable from industrial upgrading, the only way to achieve sustainable development. From the point of view of the specific implementation, it is necessary to transform the previous extensive economic growth mode with high pollution, high consumption, and high energy consumption into an intensive economic growth mode with low pollution, low consumption, and low energy consumption. To further promote

the implementation of this strategy, it is necessary to encourage the innovation and development of high-tech industries actively. Relying on scientific and technological progress and improving the quality of laborers increases the content of scientific and technological progress in sustainable development. Secondly, it is necessary to establish a market that is more in line with high-quality economic development and sustainable economic development. The state actively provides relevant subsidies and favorable policies to innovative enterprises to promote the development of related industries. In addition, the country establishes a market demand-oriented innovation system combining production and research to enhance the original innovation ability and digestion and absorption re-innovation ability so that scientific and technological innovation can better open up the market and improve the comprehensive utilization of resources. In addition, while promoting innovation in high-tech industries, the government should also increase environmental protection and ecological construction efforts to eradicate environmental pollution [4].

4.4 The Development of Circular Economy and the Construction of an Environment-Friendly Society

Developing a circular economy and building a green society is essential to achieve economic growth and environmental protection. Environmental management cannot be achieved overnight, and economic development will not stop after a while. Therefore, we must appreciate the importance of developing a circular economy to achieve a harmonious coexistence of economic development and environmental protection. From a specific operational point of view, constructing an environment-friendly society needs to start from two aspects. First, fundamentally solve the unrestrained exploitation of the environment and resources. Through national policies and laws, the country ensures the rational use of the environment by people, solves the problems of environmental destruction and pollution, and realizes the optimal allocation of resources and a virtuous cycle. Second, we need to plan and use our environmental resources carefully and have a scientific plan for environmental utilization. Instead of using and using resources haphazardly and unplanned, resulting in overuse of resources [5]. It is necessary to solve the unrestrained exploitation of the environment and resources. Through national policies and legislation, the country ensures people's rational use of the environment, solves the problems of ecological damage and environmental pollution, and realizes the optimal allocation of resources and a virtuous circle. Second, we need to plan and use environmental resources reasonably and establish a scientific plan for environmental use instead of using and exploiting resources randomly without planning, resulting in excessive use of resources [6].

5. Conclusion

To sum up, environmental protection and economic development should not be in opposition to each other but a relationship of mutual promotion and harmonious symbiosis. However, in the actual development process, we permanently destroy the environment due to economic development, resulting in excessive use of resources. In addition, there is the problem of sacrificing development efficiency for environmental protection. Faced with these problems, we need to think from a long-term perspective, take economic development and environmental protection as a comprehensive goal, rely on national policies, and combine industrial upgrading with green technology innovation to promote the harmonious coexistence of a high-quality economy and environment and lay a good foundation for the long-term economic development and resource and environment construction in the future.

References

[1] Zheng Fangyuan. The symbiotic strategy of economic development and environmental protection [J]. Environment and Life, 2014, 000(08X): P.106-107.

[2] Wang Li. Research on the symbiosis strategy of economic development and environmental protection for sustainable development[J]. Environment and Development, 2011.

[3] Wei Jilin. Exploration and Analysis of Coexistence Path Based on Economic Development and Environmental Protection [J]. Building Materials Development Orientation, 2018, 16(19): 2.

[4] Chen Bin. Research on the dialectical relationship between economic transformation, upgrading, and environmental protection [J]. Environmental Science and Management, 2019, 044(003):191-194.

[5] Chen Bin. Research on the dialectical relationship between economic transformation, upgrading, and environmental protection [J]. Environmental Science and Management, 2019, 44(3):4.

[6] Al-Ibrahim A A. Excessive use of groundwater resources in Saudi Arabia: Impacts and policy options[J]. Ambio, 1991: 34-37.