

**Seminar on
"The Restructuring of the State Environmental Protection Administration of China in 1998
and its Implications"**

Location: World Bank, 1818 H Street, NW, Washington, DC Room MC8-W150

Time: August 25, 1999 at 2:00pm

The East Asia Environment and Social Development Unit has recently been joined by Qingfeng Zhang of the State Environmental Protection Administration of China, who will work with the unit for the next one to two years. The objective of the program is to improve our understanding of environmental issues and administration in China, to provide SEPA with a better understanding of how the Bank works and to improve environmental cooperation.

Zhang is well placed to brief us on recent changes in environmental administration in China and to improve our understanding of the government's environmental policies.

We believe that this presentation will be of particular interest to task managers working on projects in China which have environmental dimensions as well as environmental specialists from other parts of the Bank who interested in environmental management.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Summary of the presentation

After the reform of Chinese government administration in 1998, the number of government ministry-level bodies had been reduced from 40 to 29, and 50 per cent of government employees had been slated for elimination from governmental payrolls within three years. Amidst this massive effort to cut central government administration, the environmental protection administration emerged as a bureaucratic exception: after years of efforts, it was finally upgraded to ministerial status.

Key questions arising from the reform as it relates to SEPA, which will be addressed in the presentation, include:

- ◆ What responsibilities were transferred from other governmental agencies to SEPA?
- ◆ How has SEPA reformed its structure to adapt to this change?
- ◆ What is it proposing to do on institutional development & authority-building to deal with its new responsibilities?
- ◆ How will SEPA coordinate with other government agencies in the new future?
- ◆ What are SEPA's organizational strengths and weaknesses?
- ◆ How does SEPA propose to seek help from international communities such as the World Bank in addressing its environmental problems?

The presentation should last about 30 minutes after which time the meeting will be thrown open for discussion.

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