



中华人民共和国外交部

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

PRC Foreign Ministry Spokesman Qin Gang answers a reporter's question during one of his regular press conferences, in June 2007

Q: Some Dutch scientists said on Tuesday that China had already overtaken the United States as the largest CO₂ emitter in the world. Can you confirm that? And what measures will China adopt?

A: We have repeatedly expounded our position on climate change and the reduction of greenhouse gas emission. Where there are human activities, there is GHG emission. As a developing country with constant economic growth, China is inevitably to have the problem of increasing GHG emission. Nonetheless, if we want to be objective, there is always the other side of the coin. Though China's overall GHG emission is relatively large, in per capita terms, it is quite low due to the large population. Do you know how much is the annual per capita GHG emission of the Netherlands that you mentioned just now? It is 11.4 tons, three times more than that of China, which is only 3.66 tons.

And I want to stress that the current climate change problem is largely a result of the accumulated emission during the industrialization of the western countries and their current high per capita emission. The GHG emission of developing countries, including China, is still a result of subsistence. Although the Kyoto Protocol does not set an emission target for developing countries, China still sincerely and actively commits itself to reducing the GHG emission and has worked with the international

community to address global warming. We have taken many measures on energy saving and emission reduction, including increasing scientific and technical application, expanding forestation and controlling the rapid population growth by family planning, which are all conducive to the reduction of GHG emission. We hope relevant people can see the question in an objective, calm and rational manner rather than directly attacking developing countries. Developed countries should also reflect upon their historical responsibility over the question.

Some people call today's China as the World Factory, where we see a shift of manufacturing from the West. Many of what the westerners wear, use and eat are made in China. *It is not fair for the western countries to increase their production in China whilst at the same time attacking China over GHG emission.*

I do not know how they calculated. Here I can assure you that the Chinese Government is working earnestly and responsibly with the international community to counter climate change.

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