China's Fishing Cold Chain Industry Launched Sustainable Declaration, Calling on Companies to Establish Efficient and Clean Cold Chain Systems

On December 6, the WWF Beijing Office (hereinafter referred to as "WWF China") and the Cold Chain Logistics Professional Committee of the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing officially launched the China Sustainable Cold Chain Declaration, calling on cold chain companies to reduce waste of resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions during transportation, and collectively slow down global warming. Representatives from the government, enterprises, associations, academia, etc., jointly witnessed the release of the initiative and the "Research Report on Aquatic Cold Chain Logistics and Refrigeration and Freezing Equipment" at the 2019 China Cold Chain Industry Annual Conference.

China is the largest seafood consumer in the world and has a great capacity in seafood production. The consumption demand of aquatic products continues to grow. However, more than 90% of the world’s wild fishery resources have been overfished or fully fished and the world’s capture fisheries production has reached its upper limit since the 1980s. While the fishery is over-exploited and aquatic products are in short supply, the corruption in the cold chain transportation adds additional pressure to the overall demand for aquatic products. In this context, seeking sustainable production, transportation and consumption of aquatic products will play a positive role in the protection of natural resources and the healthy development of the industry.

During the sustainable transformation of the aquatic industry, the fresh cold chain plays a pivotal role. The improvement of cold chain technology will help further reduce the loss of aquatic products and food waste, reduce the pressure on fishing needs, maintain the biological capacity of fisheries, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. China’s cold chain has been rapid improvements in recent years, however, gaps still exist in terms of implementing clean cooling systems. In 2018, the spoilage rate of seafood is 10%, cold chain flow rate is 41%, cold storage transportation rate is 69%, improvements are still needed to meet the standards of developed countries. At the same time, the use of hydrofluorocarbon (HFCs) refrigerants in cold chain transportation has also virtually accelerated the pace of global warming.

China has promised internationally to actively implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. Enterprises actively improve their own cold chain energy efficiency standards and implement green and efficient refrigeration actions, which is an important measure to promote energy conservation and emission reduction, cope with climate change, and practice ecological civilization.

In order to promote the establishment of an efficient, clean, sound and sustainable cold chain system, the China Sustainable Cold Chain Initiative launched by WWF China calls on enterprises to actively look for and implement clean and efficient cold chain technologies and solutions, reduce GHG such as HFCs emissions during transportation, reduce food loss and waste during the
whole seafood lifecycle including production and transportation, progressively improve cold chain management within the company.

Lunyan Lu, Executive Deputy Director-General of WWF, said, "According to the latest 'Earth Vitality Report' released by WWF in 2018, by 2030 we will need 2 planets to balance the ecological carrying capacity of nature with the ecological footprint of humans. Promoting the sustainable transformation and development of China’s cold chain and working with business partners to build an efficient, clean, sound and sustainable cold chain systems are crucial to slow down global warming, protect biodiversity, reduce waste and loss of natural resources, and further protect our beautiful mother Earth."

The “Research Report on Aquatic Cold Chain Logistics and Refrigeration and Freezing Equipment” was released simultaneously, bringing guiding theories, cutting-edge information, and case references to corporate actions. Yuming Qin, Secretary General of the Cold Chain Logistics Committee of the China Logistics and Purchasing Federation, shared the formation of the report. The research team went to more than 50 companies to conduct field surveys to understand the current status and major problems of the cold chain logistics development of aquatic products. Based on this, the team explored the development path of cold chain logistics of aquatic products and found solutions that can reduce energy consumption in refrigeration and freezing facilities. Meanwhile, he called for more companies to participate in the aquatic product cold chain sustainable development initiative and make more contributions to protecting the marine environment and food safety.

From December 4th to 6th, hosted by China Logistics and Purchasing Federation and Development and Reform Commission of Hainan Province, undertook by Cold Chain Logistics Professional Committee of China Logistics and Purchasing Federation and Cold Chain Logistics Technical Committee of National Logistics Standardization Technical Committee, co-organized by Hainan Logistics and Purchasing Federation, Hainan Cold Chain Logistics Association, “the 13th China Cold Chain Industry Annual Conference 2019” was successfully held in Haikou. The theme of the event is "Accumulate Strength and Embrace Change" and attracted 1,500 delegates including Beijing Foton Daimler Automobile Co., Ltd., JD Logistics, Shanghai Jiuye Supply Chain Management Co., Ltd., Wal-Mart Food Safety Collaboration Center, Xijie Rongqing Logistics Supply Chain Co. Ltd, SF Express Co., Ltd, Shanghai Guangming Lingxian Logistics Co., Ltd. to participate in the conference.