



2024 • 2033
International Decade of
Sciences for Sustainable
Development



CLUB OF ROME INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN CHINA

ON OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF SCIENCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (IDSSD)

EARTH-HUMANITY RECONCILIATION

Towards Peaceful Ecological Civilisations through Plural Pathways

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, SUZHOU, 5-7 NOVEMBER 2025

PRE-CONFERENCE DEEP DIVES, SHANGHAI, 2-4 NOVEMBER 2025

POST-CONFERENCE VISITS, DEQING COUNTY, 8-10 NOVEMBER 2025

The Club of Rome envisions an interconnected world that has emerged from multiple emergencies to achieve **wellbeing for all on a healthy planet**. Realising this vision requires a new understanding of **human development** and systemic transformation of education, research, innovation and industry towards sustainable models such as **green development**, **wellbeing economies** and **regeneration**. Integral to this, is the pursuit of **planetary peace** and **human security** rooted in inclusive and global cooperation. As a global network of notable individuals from diverse sectors (science, public service, industry, finance, civil society, etc), The Club of Rome is committed to nurturing sense-making and decision-making towards ecological civilisations. Emphasising **pluriversality** it builds on the humanity and capacity of everybody, promoting a diversity of pathways grounded in varied ecosystems, histories, cultures and economies.

Alongside partners like the World Academy of Art and Science (WAAS), The Club of Rome helped launch the **International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development 2024-2033** (IDSSD), with its first public event held in April 2024 in Beijing. This conference builds on that foundation offering a platform for Chinese and international institutions to collaborate on implementing ecological civilisations, with a focus on country specific strategies such as China's greening of industry and the broader economy. This conference will bring together participants from diverse countries to explore practical pathways toward ecological civilisations, grounded in varied national and cultural contexts. It seeks to build a shared understanding of humanity's current position in achieving equitable wellbeing within planetary boundaries, redefine concepts of wellbeing and human development and harness the combined strengths of science, technology, traditional knowledge and the arts. The event will also showcase community-based examples, inspire global collaboration, and identify concrete actions and a joint programme of work for ongoing engagement.

AGENDA



5 November 2025

- 1400-1515:** **Welcome and Opening Plenary: Towards peaceful ecological civilisations through plural pathways**
- 1515-1545:** Break
- 1545-1730:** **Session 1: The path forward from a Chinese perspective**
This session will look at how a collective process can have civilisational impact. Panellists will discuss the role of multiscale governance and intergenerational partnerships and the synergies across sectors.
- 1830:** **Gala dinner**

6 November 2025

- 0900-1040:** **Session 2: Cultural conditions for ecological wellbeing: Integrating all knowledge and wisdom for regenerative economies and lives**
Panellists will discuss the role of learning and education, a unitive vision of sciences and wisdoms, integrative approaches to navigating across worldviews, and regenerative principles for the economy and society.
- 1100-1240:** **Session 3: The material conditions for ecological wellbeing: Prosperity and equity within planetary boundaries**
In this session panellists will discuss the challenges of materials – including production and consumption patterns, rebalancing development and the convergence of ecological footprints, and how we can work towards equitable wellbeing for all on a healthy planet.
- 1240-1400:** Lunch and conversation
- 1400-1540:** **Session 4: The role of science, innovation and technology: How to put them at the service of ecological wellbeing**
- 1540-1600:** Break
- 1600-1740** Parallel sessions with examples from different continents
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| Session 5A: Regenerative transformation of industries, cities and mobility | Session 5B: Community building for ecological civilisations |
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7 November 2025

0900-1040: Parallel sessions with examples from different continents

Session 6A: Water-food-environment nexus

Session 6B: Exploring energy and decarbonisation challenges

1040-1100: Break

1100-1240: **Session 7: Quantum, AI, biotechnology: Are they built for ecological civilisations?**

1240-1400: Lunch and conversations

1400-1600: **Closing Plenary - International cooperation in pluralistic societies**

This plenary will discuss the need for a new era of international relations with insights from different continents and how we can create real momentum for transformations across sectors and countries.

Additional activities

The conference itself is broadened by two activities prior to and after it. In Shanghai, from 2-4 November, we will explore in detail what the concept of ecological civilisation means in a Chinese context, guided by specialists who work in China. After the conference, our hosts have organised visits to special places, illustrative of the path to regeneration. More details below. When registering please indicate if you wish to take part in any of the below.

2-4 November, Songjiang District, Shanghai

2 November – A cultural visit to the roots of Shanghai — Guangfulin Cultural Relics Park, followed by a welcome dinner.

3 November - 0900-1730

Ecological civilisations: From the "Two Mountains" concept to global action strategies, a special one-day symposium covering the topics of sustainable education, green finance, and urban development and mobility. Organised by the Shanghai University of Engineering Science, the symposium will demonstrate the practise and development of the "Two Mountains" concept – that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets.

4 November - Cultural visit to ancient Shanghai — Fangta Park. After which participants will travel by high-speed train to Suzhou.



8-10 November, Deqing County, Zhejiang

8 November – Depart Suzhou for Deqing and visit the ancient town of Xinshi

9 November - Visit Qianyuan Town and Jiangnan Origins Cultural Heritage Park

10 November - Visit Moganshan followed by transfers to Shanghai Pudong International Airport

This trip to Deqing offers an immersive journey into the layered landscapes of Jiangnan, where simplicity and extraordinariness coexist.

Xinshi Ancient Town, one of the thirteen water towns jointly applying for UNESCO World Heritage status, provides a rare, living example of Jiangnan's enduring character. The Grand Canal historical commercial hub remains grounded in local life, industry and consumption, flourishing tourist-driven transformation.

Qianyuan Town holds deep historical significance. As a critical water management centre for the Hangjiahu Plain, and the only surviving ancient county town within 50 kilometres of Hangzhou, it preserves traces of China's grass roots governance through the ages. Its post-1949 legacy, such as the People's Hall, cinemas and cultural centres reveals how one country was able to attract major investment in infrastructure long before real estate drove development.

The Jiangnan Origins Cultural Heritage Park, a 20 km² watershed, preserves ten millennia of Jiangnan's natural rhythm and topography. Thanks to the discovery of proto-porcelain and the demarcation of its archaeological zones, it has remained untouched by modern development.

Mogan Mountain, a long-standing global retreat, is now undergoing its most significant transformation in a decade. The Moghan-Yujie project, named a national model for low-efficiency land redevelopment, showcases how the "leftovers" of early urbanisation, can be creatively reimagined.

“规划不是研究未来做什么，
而是研究今天怎么做可以有未来”

Planning is not the act of determining what the future should hold, but the discipline of discerning what must be done today to make a sustainable future.