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**China and Climate Change**

**Jintao Xu, Environment for Development, China**

Monday, October 3, 2011, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m., MSU Union, Parlor C
(co-sponsored by the MSU Asian Studies Center)

**Abstract:** Climate change is one of the major challenges facing China today and in the coming decade. The government has addressed this challenge by altering growth patterns, namely, reducing energy intensity and mitigating wasteful emissions. Performance of these efforts over the past five years was mixed. In the coming decade, China has to find and use new policy instruments in order to reduce the social cost of environmental improvement and enhance effectiveness. In the international climate negotiation process, China will have to play a more positive role and make a stronger commitment to greenhouse gas abatement. International collaboration, especially with major players, is necessary for China to achieve her goals of sustained and quality growth and to make a positive contribution to the international process for a viable climate treaty.

**Biosketch:** Jintao Xu is a professor of natural resource economics at the College of Environmental Sciences and Engineering at Peking University. There he also leads the Environmental Economics Program in China (EEPC), one of six world centers sponsored by Swedish SIDA. EEPC conducts rigorous economic analysis of China's environmental and natural resource policies. Before joining Peking, Xu worked as Deputy Director and professor at the Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy, Chinese Academy of Sciences for six years. In 2000 and 2004, he led studies in the socio-economic impacts of China’s ecological programs (i.e. the Sloping Land Conversion Program and Natural Forest Protection Programs). His current research focuses on surveys and analyses of forest tenure and regulatory reform in rural China. His papers have been published in journals such as Environmental and Development Economics, World Development, Land Economics, Ecological Economics, and International Forestry Review.