

***Beyond Climate: How Can Sustainable Finance Advance Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) in China?***

*Hongqiao Liu*

China plays multiple pivotal roles in the global climate crisis. As the world's largest carbon emitter, addressing its decarbonization and climate adaptation necessitates substantial public and private finance, amounting to thousands of trillions of dollars. Moreover, China boasts the world's second-largest green finance market, driving innovation in this field. As the largest bilateral creditor globally, China holds significant sway in energy and infrastructure investment in the Global South, committed to facilitating clean energy transitions in developing nations.

However, concerns arise due to China's less-than-stellar track record in domestic climate governance and its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The substantial investments in climate solutions may exacerbate existing environmental, social, and governance challenges at home and in the Global South, potentially creating new ones. This risk underscores the critical need for the adoption and mainstreaming of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) principles by all administrative, legislative, and financial stakeholders involved.

Climate finance, both from the public and private funds, emerges as a potent tool in addressing these JEDI challenges while concurrently driving technology innovation and bolstering climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. Notably, climate finance remains relatively insulated from geopolitical influences compared to other spheres, fostering pragmatic and collaborative approaches among Chinese and international players.

The project aims to elevate the global conversation surrounding climate finance by fostering collaboration among academics, climate justice advocates, and financial practitioners. It seeks to accelerate a fair transition to sustainable practices by presenting fresh evidence, innovative frameworks, and compelling narratives.