Sino-Danish Offshore Wind Partnership “Quality Offshore”

With an ambitious agenda for the transition of its energy sector, China strives to secure access to sustainable and reliable energy services while keeping up with significant historic growth rates in demand for 30 years or more.

The purpose of the First Phase of the Strategic Sector Cooperation implemented in 2018 was to assist the Chinese National Energy Administration (NEA) in achieving its ambitious goals in terms of a high quality offshore wind development in China. It is based on a Memory of Understanding from 2017, a Strategic Sector Cooperation (SSC) project grant from 2017 followed by an Implementing Agreement signed in June 2018.

The activities of the Project are concentrated on three tracks:

1. Regulatory framework experiences exchange
2. Certification of components and turbines for offshore wind
3. Demonstration plants

Key activities

Activities within all three tracks have been successfully conducted in 2018 with a focus on sharing and transferring experiences based on the Chinese partner’s demands.

Two Steering Committee Meetings were held in March and October to review progress and forthcoming activities.

Two tours were organised to Denmark “to witness” the green transition taking place in Denmark. The study tours also gave room for Danish businesses and technologies to present solutions. In addition to the SSC partners, networks have been built and are continuously strengthened with the political establishment, provincial governments, private sector, international donors and developers.

Several workshops have been organised in close cooperation with the Trade Council. Stakeholders from both Chinese and Danish industry as well as authorities participated.

Main achievements and lessons learned in 2018

In May 2018, an important communication from the NEA demanded the introduction of competitive allocation of future wind projects from 2019. A number of details remain unclear at the time of writing, but this will be a major game changer for the industry. The rationale behind the Quality Offshore project was nevertheless strengthened by this decision as it increases demand for Danish experiences.

Hence, the main achievement of the programme in 2018 was reconfirmation of the demand for the cooperation and the improved understanding on both sides of the fact that a long-term perspective is necessary.

The implementation of the SSC program in 2018 proved to be of great value. The evident interest, potential and rationale of the SSC prompted a 3-year second phase covering 2019-2021, granted by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in January 2019.

In 2018, contacts to various provincial authorities were made, due to the fact that authority over offshore wind developments has been widely delegated to the provincial governments by Beijing. It became clear, that provinces pursue various local interests when developing their offshore resources, complicating the picture. However, in some provinces there is a strong interest in contact to Danish authorities and supply chain.

Thus, there are many promising aspects to pursue in phase 2 of Quality Offshore from 2019 to 2021.