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11 September 2017

Dear Mr. Jin Zhixin,

I would like to congratulate you and the Shanxi Coking Coal Group (SCCG) for opening the International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane in China. UNECE applauds this initiative and we highly value our collaboration on this venture.

The inauguration of the Centre of Excellence constitutes a significant step forward towards improvement of methane management techniques and standards in China. The importance of the Centre derives from the fact that it is intended to serve as a repository for relevant knowledge and a promoter of best practices in methane capture and use, developed by the UNECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane. By disseminating knowledge aimed at reducing methane emissions, improving mining conditions and facilitating sustainable production of coal and associated gas resources, the Centre will be of benefit equally to coal producers, local communities, and the environment. Its work will meaningfully contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

I am convinced that hosting the Centre operating as a public-private partnership under the auspices of the UNECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane will allow the Shanxi Coking Coal Group to become a model of a successful application of measures for effective methane drainage and use. Capitalizing on the international character of the Centre, SCCG will have an opportunity, but also a responsibility, to lead by example and to propagate the best practices in methane management in China and elsewhere.

The offer to host the Centre is a commendable commitment on the part of Shanxi Coking Coal Group. I look forward to the continuing fruitful cooperation between the Centre and UNECE. I also encourage you to engage with our sister organization in your region, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), to seek its involvement in the Centre.

Mr. Jin Zhixin
General Manager
Shanxi Coking Coal Group
Taiyuan City

It is with regret, therefore, that I must inform you that I am unable to attend the official opening on 24 September 2017, due to prior commitments. However, I am pleased to confirm that Mr. Scott Foster, Director, and Mr. Michal Drabik of the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division will attend the event. I wish the International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane every success.

Yours sincerely,


Olga Algayerova