



Case Study Energy and Environment

The UK engages with China on energy and climate change at the highest level across government, industries and academia. There are political, economic, social and technological dimensions to this relationship. Subjects addressed range from national strategy to local initiatives and carbon trading to wind farming. Over time the bi-lateral events have evolved from tackling environmental protection and waste management to discussing the eco-city and the post-Kyoto agreement. We have been at the heart of this human endeavour to save our planet.



Sensitive climate

DECC

DECC is the Whitehall department that leads the UK's bilateral relationship with China on climate change. We interpret at several of its annual visits and meetings. It usually combines minister-level talks with technical presentations from businesses. The content of the talks is very technical. Whether it's carbon trading or nuclear reactor design and building, the vocabulary involved is new and extensive. Some words are new inventions, even in English. In addition, the talks are often highly sensitive, dealing in strategic and national interests. These are not the kind of assignments the DECC would give to just anyone with a good interpreting CV.



Jargon busting

THE STATE COUNCIL OF CHINA

The Research Centre of the State Council of China hired us for their meetings in the UK. The theme was reform and pricing in the gas and electricity markets. The UK leads the world in creating competition in the utility market, which remains a state monopoly in many countries. The Chinese came to learn. One challenge for us was the scope of the visit which covered a dozen organisations across both public and private sectors. Each organisation had its own set of industry jargon. Another challenge was the huge variety of accents we had to interpret. When the programme had finished our customer said, 'That was excellent. I don't know how you did it!'



Sustained programme

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership is at the heart of the drive for sustainable development. With HRH the Prince of Wales as its patron, the institute's remit includes business actions, executive education and Masters-level academic programmes. Each year, a group of senior government officials from across China comes to the institute for an intensive training programme lasting up to three weeks. The programme combines classroom lectures and workshops with site visits. It involves both simultaneous and consecutive interpreting and requires high levels of stamina in addition to specialist knowledge and skills. KL Interpreters has been the trusted supplier for several years.

