

Dental events offer reason to smile

Global oral health program plans to involve 3,000 children in China

By LIU YUKUN in Beijing and LI YINGQING in Kunming
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A series of educational oral health events will be launched in China as a part of the global dental care program Smile Around the World, and more than 3,000 children will be involved, said the organizers at the opening ceremony in Kunming, Yunnan province.

The project was initiated by the FDI World Dental Federation, organized by the China Stomatological Association and supported by global manufacturing and production company 3M.

Speaking on Mar 20 — the World Oral Health Day—Gerhard Seeberger, head of the FDI World Dental Federation, explained that the aim is to increase awareness among children around the world to prevent dental caries, and also help parents to better guide their children.

“The risk of dental caries can be largely reduced with proper prevention and treatment, and that is our purpose,” said Seeberger.

The same day as the program's opening ceremony, an oral health lecture was held at the Primary School Affiliated with Yunnan Normal University.

During the lecture, children read pamphlets produced by the FDI World Dental Federation. They also



Gerhard Seeberger, head of the FDI World Dental Federation, interacts with students at the Primary School Affiliated with Yunnan Normal University on March 20. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

practiced brushing their teeth under the guidance of teachers and volunteer dentists.

“We are working on the design of educational events that are interesting and engaging to students, so we can empower children to prioritize their oral health and offer parents guidance to support them on this journey, thus preventing oral diseases from an early age,” Seeberger added.

A series of similar events will be held in Shaanxi province and the Ningxia Hui autonomous region from March to June.

Yu Guangyan, president of the Chinese Stomatological Association, said: “Tooth decay in Chinese children is becoming more common, and it is getting worse in rural areas compared with cities.

“Therefore, strengthening oral health education efforts

and helping children have good hygiene from an early age is imperative.”

According to a report from the World Health Organization, dental decay is the most common issue affecting children's health. About 60 to 90 percent of school pupils in industrialized countries have caries.

Yu added that by last September, about 70.9 percent of five-year-old children in Chi-

na were found to have dental caries, a 5.8 percentage points increase than that of ten years ago. For 12-year-old children, the number was 34.5, a 7.8 percentage points increase.

“The number is still rising,” Yu said. “We look forward to more cooperation from companies and organizations in different fields.” Yu added.

“In that way, we can fully utilize each other's strengths and better promote dental

care in China.”

3M announced at the opening ceremony that it will donate preventive medical products for caries and other oral diseases to the program.

Shen Ning, general manager of 3M Healthcare Business Group in China, said the company is making efforts to offer better dental products and it is hoping to see more active awareness of oral disease prevention among the public.

Wind project set to energize rural Guizhou

By ZHENG YIRAN in Beijing and YANG JUN in Guiyang

Beijing Tianrun New Energy Investment Co Ltd has invested 1.35 billion yuan (\$212 million) in a wind power project in Guizhou province, in a bid to promote local economic transformation.

The whole project involves three phases. Construction of the first phase, with a maximum capacity of 50 megawatts, began recently in Qiaojia town of Yanhe county in Tongren city, with an investment of 450 million yuan from Beijing Tianrun.

The project began wind tests in 2016 and was officially launched two years later. When the whole project is completed, it will become a supplemental source for the local electricity network and even be able to supply power to the grid in Tongren.

“Our company has long been devoted to the nation's poverty alleviation undertaking. Yanhe county is an impoverished area, but it is rich in wind power. That is why we chose to invest here,” said Wu Peng, program director at Beijing Tianrun.

According to Wu, Yanhe county has extensive meadows and the wind speed there reaches 5 meters per second.

“Usually a wind speed of 6 m/s is required to build a wind farm, but the low-wind-speed generating units we developed can make full use of the wind power resource here. After the wind farm is built, the estimated return rate of investment is 8 to 10 percent a year,” he said.

In addition, Beijing Tianrun has established an 800,000-yuan poverty-alleviation fund, aiming to promote infrastructure construction in Yanhe and assist the local agriculture industry.

“Yanhe county is an impoverished area, but it is rich in wind power.”

Wu Peng, program director at Beijing Tianrun

1.35b yuan

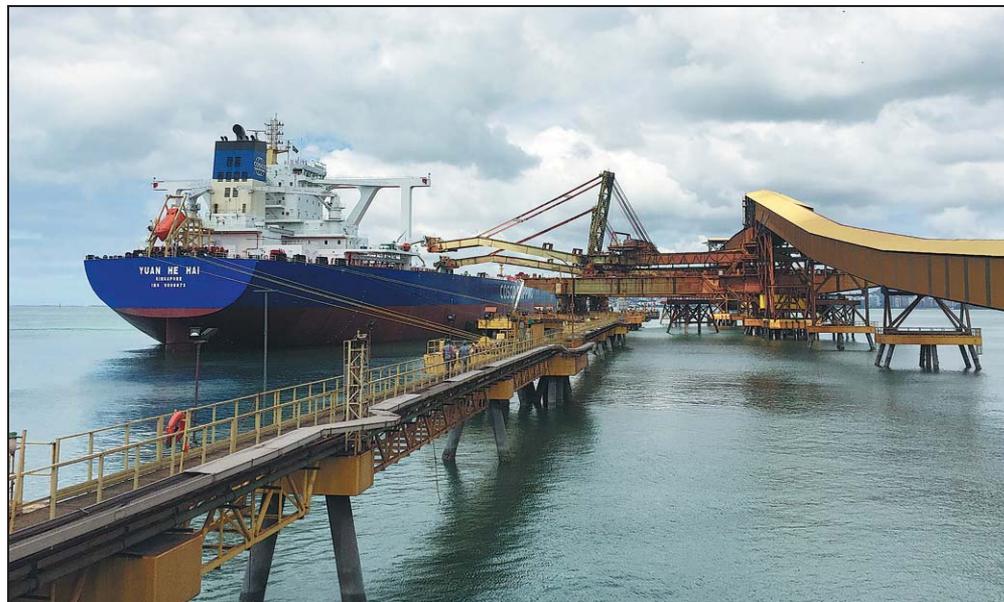
amount invested by Beijing Tianrun in a wind power project in Guizhou province

Han Fei, deputy chief of Yanhe county, said “the local area mainly relies on agriculture and industrial development is relatively weak. The wind farm, which is environmentally friendly, will promote the economic development of the county.”

“The establishment of the wind farm will contribute to government revenue. Moreover, there is a chance to develop some tourism programs. We may take the opportunity to combine local agriculture with tourism, lifting local people out of poverty,” he said.

In recent years, the county has optimized the industrial structure to increase residents' incomes through the construction of agricultural parks. The wind power project will be a push for future development.

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The first second-generation Valemax, Yuan He Hai, docks at the Tubarao port in Brazil for the first time on Feb 25. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Vale Sustainability Report: New ore carrier world's most efficient vessel

By ZHENG XIN
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Brazilian mining conglomerate Vale SA says its second-generation Valemaxes, used to transport iron ore from Brazil to China, are the most efficient vessels ever built in terms of greenhouse gas emission reductions.

The company's new sustainability report says the new vessels, also known as VLOCs, have a capacity of up to 400,000 metric tons dead weight and emit 41 percent less carbon dioxide than the Capesizes used in 2011, which had a capacity of 180,000 tons and served as the basis for the first generation of Valemaxes launched that year.

Because of the close cooperation with Chinese partners in various areas, Valemax vessels are designed in China, with most of them constructed and financed in China, as well.

“Vale uses natural resources in its operations. Therefore, we must account to society with a specific report

on socio-environmental issues,” said Alberto Ninio, director of the company's new, 11th edition of its sustainability report.

“This year, we have further advanced by aligning our actions to the structure of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.”

Though it has some of the highest quality reserves in the world, Vale has a geographic disadvantage compared with its competitors, including Rio Tinto Group and BHP Billiton Ltd; it must travel some 14,247 kilometers more than the other two.

The new vessels are part of the miner's efforts to minimize the geographical advantage of its Australian peers in shipping ore to China.

The Rio de Janeiro-based company's cost-reduction strategy partly depends on the use of newer ships, Fabio Schwartsman, CEO of Vale SA previously said.

Shipbuilders are constructing a total of 32 such vessels for Vale's shipping

41 percent

less carbon dioxide was emitted by Vale SA's new vessel compared with its first-generation vessels launched in 2011

partners; 30 of them will be delivered by Chinese shipyards from the beginning of 2018 through the last quarter of 2019 and two will be delivered by Japanese shipyards from the end of 2019 through the first quarter of 2020.

Four Chinese companies — China Ore Shipping Pte Ltd, a subsidiary of China COSCO Shipping Corp Ltd, China Merchants Energy Shipping Co, Ltd, ICBC Financial Leasing Co Ltd and Bank of Communications Finance Leasing Co, Ltd — purchased 19 VLOCs from Vale since 2015, with the total value of these ships reaching \$1.94 billion.

Vale's sustainability report,

which provides information about the company's performance in 2017 in economic, social, and environmental areas, follows the guidelines of the Global Reporting Initiative, an institution that established the international standard of corporate socio-environmental reports, it said.

The document is divided into five main themes: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships.

In 2017, the company also invested \$487.3 million in environmental protection and conservation, with its percentage of reuse of water for industrial processes reaching 82 percent and iron ore tailings dams audited with confirmed stability condition reaching 100 percent, it said.

It has also invested \$14 million through its Vale Foundation in 52 projects in 65 cities in Brazil, related to the themes of work and income generation, health, education, culture and sports.

Briefly

Remote areas enjoy digital education

Suning Mobile Classroom Public Welfare Activity, a van transformed into a multimedia classroom, arrived last week in Harbin, Heilongjiang province, and brought digital media education to local classrooms. The activity covers six areas including virtual reality and artificial intelligence. Initiated by nonprofit organization Adream Foundation and electric appliance provider Suning.com, the activity will travel across the nation from this month through November, bringing digital media education to remote places. Ma Kang, vice president at Suning, said the activity has been ongoing for four years and has been focusing on balancing educational resources among different regions.

Study: Rural China short of kids' books

A reading report that targets children from rural areas in Central and East China, where many poverty-stricken areas are located, was released on May 2 by Amazon China, The China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation and The China Philanthropy Research Institute under Beijing Normal University. The report says that nearly 74 percent of the children surveyed read fewer than 10 books per year, and more than 36 percent of children read fewer than three. Moreover, more than 71 percent of families surveyed have fewer than 10 books in their homes, and nearly 20 percent of children have no books to read outside of their textbooks.

Volunteers plant trees in Beijing

A planting event that promoted environmental protection was held on April 28 in Miyun, Beijing, by local governments and The AEON Group Environmental Foundation. The event attracted more than 800 volunteers from China and Japan, and participants planted about 8,000 trees. Takuya Okada, honorary chairman and adviser at AEON Co Ltd, said he looks forward to more cooperation between Chinese and Japanese volunteers to better protect the environment. Since 1991, the foundation has been focusing on environmental protection and planting events, and has cooperated with neighboring countries to promote its events to a wider audience.

Dream Classroom offers insight

Nissan Group of China and China Council for the Promotion of International Trade announced recently that they will cooperate to further promote Nissan's “The Dream Classroom” program to more car exhibitions. During China's three-day May Day holidays, the program recruited 40 elementary school students to Nissan's car exhibition at the China International Exhibition Center for a theoretical and practical learning experience in the automotive field. From 2013 to 2017, the program has benefited more than 75,000 students across China.

Weibo to support panda habitat

Panda Guardians, a Weibo account that aims at gaining more support for the giant panda's habitat protection, announced on April 17 that it will launch a bamboo planting project in Shaanxi province. The project was a follow-up to a game on Weibo, one of China's most popular platforms for social media. In the game, users can feed their virtual pandas by growing virtual bamboo through points they get from such actions as posting on Weibo and inviting friends to the game. Game users' efforts will be calculated by Weibo.