

ENVIRONMENT

China sets pace for green energy

Country expects to reach its goals well ahead of stated 2030 deadline

By ZHENG JINRAN and YANG JUN in Guiyang

China has cut coal consumption by 1.57 billion metric tons from 2010 to 2015 to reduce carbon emissions by 3.6 billion tons. And it has shown a commitment to green energy by becoming the largest country with renewable power capacity in 2015.

An estimated 147 gigawatts of renewable power capacity was added worldwide in 2015, the largest annual increase ever, and global investment also climbed to a record high, the annual Global Status Report on Renewables 2016 said.

Among the global players, China has been especially active. It leads the list of 148 countries covered in the report, with the largest renewable power capacity by 2015, according to Irene Giner-Reichl, president of Global Forum on Sustainable Energy.

She focused on the rapid growth of renewable energy in China during the 2016 Eco Forum annual conference in Guiyang, Guizhou province,

on Saturday. The forum ended on Sunday.

With the increasing investment on solar, wind and hydropower, China will see a larger growth of nonfossil fuels, "with a high possibility to exceed the set targets of 15 percent by 2020," said Li Junfeng of the Chinese Renewable Energy Industries Association.

Nonsolar fuels accounted for 12 percent of China's primary energy mix in 2015, growing from 7.4 percent in 2005, and it's expected to account for 20 percent by 2030, said Xie Zhenhua, China's chief climate negotiator and former deputy chief of the National Development and Reform Commission.

As one of largest global carbon emitters, China has implemented multiple policies, including industrial restructuring, to enhance energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions, with significant success.

Its cut in coal consumption since 2010 was equivalent to reducing carbon emission by 3.6 billion tons, Xie said.

"In 2015, China saw its GDP hit 67.7 trillion yuan

World leaders in renewable power

Capacity in gigawatts, excluding hydroelectric power sources

- 1 China, 199 GW
- 2 United States, 122 GW
- 3 Germany, 92 GW
- 4 Japan, 43 GW
- 5 India, 36 GW

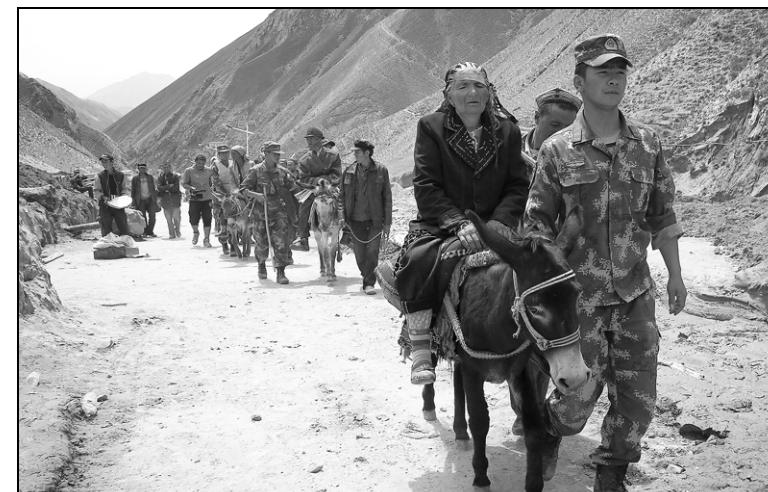
Source: Global Status Report on Renewables 2016

(\$10.1 trillion), 148 percent above 2005, but the carbon dioxide emission per unit of GDP has been reduced by 38 percent compared with 2005," Xie said.

China is committed to reducing carbon intensity 60-65 percent by 2030, and aims to reach peak carbon dioxide emissions earlier than the deadline of 2030, Xie said.

William Ruto, vice-president of Kenya, who attended the forum, praised China's efforts in reducing carbon emissions and called for more cooperation among the African countries and China on the use of green energy.

Contact the writers at zheng-jinran@chinadaily.com.cn



Long road

Residents are relocated in Yecheng county, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, on Saturday, after a massive landslide on Wednesday killed 35 people in a village. The only major road access to the village was restored at 4 pm on Saturday. MA KAI / XINHUA

ANTI-CORRUPTION

General investigated for graft

By CHINA DAILY



Tian Xiusi

General Tian Xiusi, 66, former political commissar in the People's Liberation Army Air Force, has been placed under investigation on suspicion of serious violations of discipline.

A military anti-graft department is looking into his case and will investigate suspected violations of Party regulations, according to www.81.cn, a news website affiliated with the PLA.

No detailed information about his case was available.

His wife and his secretary

have also been placed under investigation, according to a report published on www.ifeng.com.

The report said Tian is the third general in the PLA to be investigated since the nationwide anti-corruption campaign started in late 2012.

Tian began his military career in the Military Area Command in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region in 1968. He started as a soldier and worked his way up to deputy

political commissar of the military region in 1999.

He was promoted to political commissar of the Xinjiang Military Area Command in 2005.

He worked as the political commissar of the Chengdu Military Area Command from 2009 to 2012 and as political commissar of the Air Force until 2015.

He was appointed as the deputy head of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress after he retired from the military in August 2015.

Briefly

BEIJING Ex-PLA officer dies at 79

Ye Xuanning, former director of the Liaison Department of the People's Liberation Army General Political Department, died from illness on Sunday at age 79. He was the son of late PLA Marshall Ye Jianying. Ye Xuanning was born in 1938 and joined the army in 1957. He retired from the army in 1997.

ZHEJIANG Four dead in subway mudflow

The bodies of four workers buried in an underground mudflow at a subway construction site in Hangzhou have been recovered, local authorities said on Saturday. The mudflow occurred at 10:30 pm on Friday, trapping eight workers, the Hangzhou Subway Group said. Four workers were rescued.

TIANJIN 5 detained after fatal bus accident

Five people have been detained after a bus accident caused 26 deaths early this month, police said on Sunday. The five are suspected of playing a role in the accident, according to the city's public security bureau. The coach was carrying 30 people when the accident occurred on July 1 after the driver lost control of the vehicle due to a flat tire.

XINHUA—CHINA DAILY

Hainan special

Space center fires tourism boom

By HUANG YIMING and LIU XIAOLI

Thousands of tourists and fans of outer space traveled to Wenchang, Hainan province, to witness the maiden launch of the Long March 7 carrier rocket from the Wenchang Space Launch Center on June 25.

Construction on the Wenchang center, China's fourth and only coastal launch site, began in 2009. The project quickly became the driving force for the development of the city of Wenchang.

Shandong-based real estate and new energy developer Luneng Group is one of many companies that saw opportunities in the city. It has invested more than 100 billion yuan (\$15 billion) in Wenchang in recent years. Its investments in the city include three world-class theme parks, a commercial real estate project with 500,000 square meters of floor space, a shopping street, 11 museums and 26 hotels.

International hotel brands have also been drawn to the city. The Hilton hotel in Wenchang opened last year, and a Pullman hotel is expected to open next year.

More significant than the economic gain is local social benefit.

Big enterprises create jobs for local people. Yang Songru, a resident of Longlou town, where the launch center is located, said many of his family members are employed by these large companies.

"The launch center in our town attracted many big enterprises to set up here, driving local employment," Yang said. "It would be impossible for us to get jobs in our hometown without that," Yang said.

Chen Xiaoao, Party chief of Wenchang, said: "We are taking advantage of the launch center project to develop Wenchang city."



Tourists from across the country watch the launch of Long March 7 carrier rocket in Wenchang. HUANG YIMING / CHINA DAILY

What they say

It was my first visit to a space launch. The launches in the years to come will bring in more tourists and I am sure my company will benefit from it.

Zeng Changfu, head of a local travel agency

The Wenchang launch center is quite different from the others in our country, because of its openness and coastal view. I always dreamed of seeing a rocket blasting off from the sea, and now my dream has come true.

Zhang Chen, a space fan from Beijing

I am so proud of my country. We are first-class in space science and technology in the world now. I believe the center will foster more talented professionals for Hainan province in a few years.

Ding Yinsheng, a freelancer from Haikou

The launch center brings the city new fame. The world will get to know Wenchang through the space center. It offers us a great opportunity to promote our products.

Wu Shuli, salesman for a food company in Wenchang

Chen said Wenchang has invested billions of yuan in recent years in improving its infrastructure, including roads, bridges, water and power supplies, and sewage disposal.

Wenchang mayor He Qiongmei said the launch center and related industries have given the city a promising future.

"Wenchang is developing an agricultural breeding industry with the help of the space launch center," she said. "We are going to build our agricultural brand based on cutting-edge space breeding technologies."

The city also wants to play a role similar to that played by Houston in the United States. Houston, Texas, is a renowned space city that attracts lots of space travel fans each year.

"We are even better than Houston in terms of natural scenery, and space-related tourism will add to Wenchang's charm," He added.

The city will also promote the development of its space science and technology industry.

"The government is planning to build a space science park, which will gather space-related and supporting industries," the mayor said.

Wenchang Space Science Center, a tourist facility at the launch center, is in trial operation. It allows tourists to take a close look at the launch tower, command center and space vehicle assembly.

In addition, a space flight theme park that consists of four zones — the Earth, Sun, Moon and Mars — will be built in Wenchang. It will integrate tourism with academic exchanges and science education.

Last year, Wenchang received 1.73 million tourists, bringing in about 1.2 billion yuan in revenue.

Contact the writers through huangyiming@chinadaily.com.cn



Captain Su Chengfen, 81, is one of the holders of the Genglubu navigation log. LIU XIAOLI / CHINA DAILY

Wealth of historical records proves Chinese sovereignty

By ZHAO SHIJUN

zhaoshijun@chinadaily.com.cn

For hundreds of years or even longer, fishermen and sailors in Hainan, China's southernmost province, have used a specific book as a guide beyond the realm of sea voyages.

The book, called Genglubu, or Road Book, is a navigation log of the South China Sea.

It is a navigation guide based on experience accumulated over many generations.

There are numerous handwritten versions of the accounts, put down between the 13th century and no later than the early 18th century. There are many versions of Genglubu scattered in different fishing villages in Hainan.

However, according to Zhou Weimin, a professor at Hainan University, the book's significance has gone far beyond the realm of sea voyages. Zhou said it is ironclad proof of China's sovereignty over the South China Sea.

"China's claims are based on historical evidence," he said. "There are overlapping claims over the islands, but few countries have questioned that China was indeed the first country to discover and name the islands in the South China Sea. The history of the con-

tinuous exercise of authority spans some 2,000 years."

Zhou said Genglubu provides detailed narratives on the direction and distance of the navigational routes, and reveals remarkable regularity in the naming of the islands by the fishermen.

The fishermen had given names to most of the 280-plus islands, isles and reefs in the South China Sea, Zhou said.

In addition, the Genglubu records of the places are in line with China's official historical records dating back to the Han Dynasty (206 BC-AD 220), which show that the Chinese people discovered these islands and carried out production activities on and around them, he added.

For instance, the Yongle Islands were called "Shitang" in Genglubu, which is the same name used in official records of the Song Dynasty (960-1279).

Zhou said the names of the islands given by Hainan's fishermen have also been used in foreign publications. A book written by Japanese explorer Ogura Nosuke mentioned the names of about 10 South China Sea islands given by Hainan. The book also included detailed maps of the islands.

"Before the presence of

Western powers in the South China Sea, the Chinese were the only people to give names to the islands, to use them as sites for their production and habitation," he noted.

He said such activities are concrete evidence of China's control over the South China Sea islands, and this evidence is in line with ancient official documents. According to historical records, the islands were under the administration of Zhenzhou, the southernmost prefecture of the country, during the Tang Dynasty (618-907).

Relics relating to production and habitation by Chinese people have been discovered on the islands, pointing to a history of more than 1,000 years.

Guo Zhenqian, another researcher in Hainan, made a detailed study of local fishermen's activities based on the book. There are statistics on how many islands have been inhabited by Hainan's fishermen, and there are the numbers of inhabitants and the years when they lived there.

"The fact that the fishermen could live and work on the islands for a long time shows that they had been effectively administered by the (Chinese) government," Guo said.