

BUSINESS



Chinese travelers pose for photographs at the Ibaraki prefecture airport in Japan. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Nation may hit carbon emission target in 2025

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The peak in China's carbon emissions is estimated to be hit around 2025, five years ahead of its 2030 Paris Agreement target, thanks to efforts made in energy transformation, an industry expert said.

"I hope that with the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25), China will bring its carbon emissions goal forward. That will be a big step for the world. China is credible. It makes a plan and usually achieves it," Lord Nicholas Stern, chair of the Grantham Research Institute under the London School of Economics and Political Science, said.

The former chief economist at the World Bank noted that in the past five years, strong technological changes have taken place in China and the country has demonstrated a deeper understanding of the danger of unmanaged climate change.

During the 2015 Paris Climate Summit in France, President Xi Jinping delivered a speech at the opening ceremony, with a promise that China's carbon emissions will peak by 2030, when its forest stock is estimated to be 4.5 billion cubic meters more than the level of 2005, and that China will strive to achieve the goal as early as possible.

A report released by the Ministry of Science and Technology showed that in 2017, China's carbon intensity per unit of gross domestic product decreased by 46 percent from the level in 2005. The growth rate of its carbon emissions has posted nearly zero growth since 2013.

The report said that between 2010 and 2017, the global carbon dioxide concentration climbed and its growth rate also increased.

The Chinese government has taken active steps such as promoting clean energy projects and major ecological initiatives, achieving remarkable results in reducing carbon emissions.

"China has already fulfilled its

promise to cut carbon emissions by 40 percent to 45 percent compared to the level of 2005, three years earlier than planned," said Ma Aimin, deputy director of the National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation under the Ministry of Ecology and Environment.

Stern said China now leads the world in many aspects such as rail transport and digital systems. The next step is to take advantage of those aspects to manage the energy system better.

"China has created in the past 20 years many potential advantages, and it is starting to use some of them. But I think it can use those advantages much more quickly and strongly, particularly in the energy sector. China is in a good place to put these advantages to work," he said.

China is making progress saving energy through its railways. Data from China Railway showed that in 2018, the national railway energy consumption converted to standard coal reached 16.2 million metric tons, 25,700 tons lower than the level in 2017.

Railway chemical oxygen demand emissions were 1,878 tons, down 0.7 percent year-on-year. Sulfur dioxide emissions fell 39.7 percent year-on-year to 9,836 tons.

The 14th Five-Year Plan will underscore the importance of the clean and efficient use of fossil fuels. It will require that by 2030, non-fossil energy will account for 20 percent of primary energy consumption.

"Through the 14th Five-Year Plan, China can step into the absolute reduction of carbon emissions, find new ideas and alternatives, and lay the foundation for a long-term goal," said Wang Yi, deputy head of the Institutes of Science and Development under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

"The plan is critical for China's carbon emissions goal. It is important that China's carbon emissions will start to decrease during the plan period," Stern said.

Carriers increase flights to Japan

Airlines set to boost capacity as demand from Chinese travelers keeps surging

By ZHU WENQIAN
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With a growing number of Chinese travelers taking trips to Japan, Chinese and Japanese carriers are launching more flights to connect the two countries.

During the winter-spring flying season from Oct 27 to March 28 of next year, there will be a total of 1,406 flights connecting China and Japan. That is 224 flights more than the past summer flying season, according to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan.

Shanghai-based China Eastern Airlines plans to launch new three-times-a-week round trip services between Wuhan, Hubei province, and Tokyo, starting from Jan 4 next year.

The carrier said it will increase the capacity and launch more flights

from Wuhan to other Japanese cities to meet the demand of residents flying for business, travel and to study abroad.

China Eastern will add to the frequency of its flights from Kunming, Yunnan province, to Osaka and make it a daily round-trip service from Jan 15 next year. The company is optimistic about the travel demand for those flights.

Shanghai-based Chinese budget carrier Spring Airlines has launched several new flights connecting China and Japan since Oct 27 when the flying season changed.

They include new flights between Xi'an, Shaanxi province, and Ibaraki, Xi'an and Saga, and Shanghai and Narita International Airport in Tokyo. Spring said it has also added to the frequency of flights that connect Xi'an and Osaka.

"Next year, Japan will hold the Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo,

and we expect the travel demand from China to Japan will continue to grow," said Zhang Wu'an, vice-president and spokesman for Spring Airlines.

At this time, flights connecting Japan and China account for 27 percent of total international flights in Japan.

In comparison, carriers from Japan and South Korea recently canceled 501 flights and there are now 778 flights a week between the two nations. The number of South Korean travelers has declined following trade disputes between the two countries, said Japan's business newspaper Nikkei.

"The increasing capacity put in the routes between China and Japan will increase competition between airlines and pull down their profits. The flying rights between the two countries are scarce resources and carriers would like to grab them first. The profit-making is expected to get better in the next few years," said Lin Zhijie, an aviation industry analyst.

"For passengers, there will be more flight options and the flight ticket prices are likely to become cheaper. The number of travelers going to Japan is expected to continue to grow significantly," he added.

All Nippon Airways, Japan's largest airline, said it plans to launch new daily round-trip flights that connect Tokyo Haneda International Airport with Shenzhen and Qingdao from the summer of 2020. The flight to Shenzhen will be the first non-stop service from a Japanese airline.

"There is a growing demand of travelers visiting Japan and ANA will increase its international service. Haneda Airport will also expand to adapt to inbound Japanese tourism," said Seiichi Takahashi, senior vice-president of ANA.

From January to August, the number of Chinese travelers who visited Japan reached 6.58 million, up 13.6 percent year-on-year, the Japan National Tourism Organization said.



From left: A vast of photovoltaic panels work at a solar power farm in Qinghai. The province has rich resources in developing renewable energy. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



Qinghai attracts tourists and photographers. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



Tibetan antelopes are among the rare species living in Qinghai's Keke Xili (Hoh Xil) National Nature Reserve. ZHOU JINGQUAN / FOR CHINA DAILY

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Northwest China's Qinghai province is increasing efforts to allow more people from across the world to learn about its natural beauty and unique culture.

The province got its name from Qinghai Lake, China's largest inland saltwater lake, said Wang Jianjun, local Party secretary.

Since ancient times, whenever people mention Qinghai Lake they think of "green lake," "blue sea" or "fairylake" due to its picturesque scenery.

Qinghai is the source of three of China's most important rivers: the Yangtze, Yellow and Lancang. The first two are known as the mother rivers of China. The Lancang (or Mekong) is one of the most important water systems in Asia. It flows through China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam before joining the South China Sea.

With a total area of 720,000 square kilometers, the province boasts more than 5,000 lakes and 4,200 rivers. Annually it supplies some 60 billion cubic meters of freshwater to lower reaches, benefiting millions of people, data from the provincial government show.

Qinghai is located on the "planet's third pole" — the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. The plateau has the world's largest stretches of alpine wetlands, grasslands, shrubs, forests and other ecosystems.

Green and blue space accounts for more than 70 percent of the total area. The plateau was reputed to be one of four ultraclean areas in the

Oasis of natural beauty opening up to tourists



Three-river-Source National Park in Qinghai province, as the source of the Yangtze, Yellow and Lancang rivers, serves as a key ecological shelter in the region. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

world by UNESCO, Wang said. Qinghai boasts the richest biodiversity among high-altitude regions internationally. The total value of the province's ecological resources reaches nearly 19 trillion yuan (\$2.73 trillion), he noted.

In 2015, the Sanjiangyuan National Park was set to be located in Qinghai. This made it one of the first

provinces in China to carry out a pilot program for the national park system. In August this year, the province held China's first forum on national parks in its capital city, Xining.

The two-day event attracted more than 450 representatives of regulatory agencies, experts and scholars from home and abroad. They dis-

cussed topics including construction and management of nature reserves, biodiversity protection and the future of natural heritage sites.

"The success of the forum has opened a new window for Qinghai to connect with the country and the world," Wang said.

In addition to its natural beauty, the province is home to abundant

mineral and energy resources. The potential value of proven minerals, including metal, petroleum and shale gas, now reaches about 105 trillion yuan. The Chaerhan Salt Lake is the largest of its kind in China and second-largest in the world, with salt reserves of more than 60 billion metric tons.

Moreover, Qinghai's proven lithi-

um reserves reach 17.24 million tons, accounting for 83 percent of China's total and 60 percent globally. The province is also one of China's demonstration provinces in the clean energy sector.

Having a mixed culture, such as Hehuang and Regong, Qinghai has developed into an important national ethnic cultural protection and tourist destination.

"We have organized several international activities like a cycling race, a swimming competition across the Yellow River and a poetry festival. They have raised Qinghai's reputation and expanded its influence," said Liu Ning, governor of Qinghai.

For years, both the number of tourists and tourism revenue in the province have had an annual growth rate of 20 percent.

"We will create a series of tourism activities that will break the seasonal restrictions, such as self-driving tours, culinary trips and a journey highlighting folk customs and intangible cultural heritage," Liu added.

Opening up to the outside world, Qinghai has formed comprehensive road and high-speed rail networks. It also facilitates routes linking seven countries and region, as well as 107 domestic destinations.

The province has gradually become a transport hub linking China's east and west, southwest and northwest. It is also an important gateway to the South and Central Asian countries, Liu said.

As for international relations, Qinghai has 182 trading partners and friendship ties with 20 international cities from 17 countries, Wang said.