

CHINA

Nation leads global green energy growth

Over 60 percent of UN development targets have been met, report says

By LI MENGHAN
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China is on track to achieve the targets set in the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with breakthroughs in many key areas showing a positive impact on global progress, according to a report released on Saturday.

Over the past decade, China has attained dynamic monitoring of more than 90 percent of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, with 60.5 percent of them close to or already achieved as of 2024, thereby forming a synergistic model of technology, policy and governance, the report said.

"China's advancement of SDG indicators can be attributed to the direct or indirect influence of a series of measures and initiatives implemented by the government, such as the poverty alleviation battle, the 'lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets' ecological concept, and the high-quality development strategy," said Guo Huadong, head of the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals at the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Guo, who is also the leading author of the report and an academician with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, emphasized China's leadership on the global stage in developing renewable energy and public transport.

The report showed that China has the largest number of installed wind turbines, accounting for 39 percent of the global total. In 2024, the country's new wind turbine capacity made up nearly 70 percent of global additions, indicating steady growth. Additionally, between 2015 and 2024, more than 90 percent of urban residents had convenient access to public transport, and all provincial governments had adopted disaster reduction strategies — both sectors having already met the 2030 targets ahead of schedule.

Guo also highlighted the positive influence of China's breakthroughs in key areas on the advancement of global sustainable development goals.

He said Africa has become a new engine driving the global rice expansion, with over half of the countries worldwide that expand-

ed their rice cultivation areas being in Africa. The continent achieved a 15.7 percent increase from 2015 to 2024, contributing an additional 2.2 million hectares, or more than 20 percent of the global net increase.

"China's technological innovation and development assistance are driving the growth of food production in Africa, accelerating the achievement of the global zero hunger target," Guo said.

He added that China's advancements in technological innovation and large-scale production have significantly reduced the costs of photovoltaic systems. As a result, the investment payback period for photovoltaic power generation is now comparable to or even shorter than that of traditional thermal power or hydropower in three quarters of the areas globally. This demonstrates the economic viability of developing photovoltaic power in these regions.

However, under the combined pressures of intensifying climate change, rising geopolitical tensions, frequent economic shocks and increasing development vulnerability, the report also cautioned that the scale and pace of advancing the 2030 Agenda have fallen far short of expectations. Of the 59 indicators assessed, only 10 are on track, 27 have slowed, five have stalled and 17 have regressed.

Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, former president of Mauritius, said: "As we celebrate the decade of the SDGs, the report presents some fascinating findings showcasing yet again the need for accurate and credible data in order to assess progress on the SDGs and also to make recommendations where there are gaps. The efforts of CBAS are to be commended."

The report, titled "Big Earth Data in Support of the Sustainable Development Goals," was led by the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals and jointly authored by more than 160 experts from over 40 research institutes. It aims to provide a comprehensive evaluation a decade after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and offers public data products to support its implementation in all countries, especially developing ones.

Gu Tong contributed to this story.

Horseback harmony



Participants compete in a horse racing event, known in the Tibetan language as "Gar Chaqin" in Gar county, Ngari prefecture, Xizang autonomous region, on Saturday. The event features equestrian performances. ZHONG YI / XINHUA

TCM gains wider recognition, support

By ZHAO RUINAN in Nanchang
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Officials and experts called for deepened international collaboration on traditional medicine, stressing its importance "amid the current global state of affairs where diseases pose daunting challenges for mankind".

The remarks were made at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Forum on Traditional Medicine and Traditional Medicine Industry

Conference 2025 in Nanchang, Jiangxi province, which concluded on Friday.

Fazeel Najeef, the Maldives' ambassador to China, said traditional Chinese medicine has gained global recognition in recent decades, with many countries now regulating and licensing practitioners.

He said there are estimated to be hundreds of accredited TCM schools worldwide — particularly in North America, Europe and Australia — as well as thousands of licensed clinics.



Crowning charisma

Contestants wearing traditional hanfu costumes compete in the 2025 Miss Tourism World China Finals in Huainan city, Anhui province, on Saturday. A total of 60 participants from 20 regions across the country showcased their charm through garment displays and talent performances at the event. DU YU / XINHUA

Qufu hosts UNESCO education prize

By XU XIAODAN and ZHAO RUIXUE in Qufu, Shandong

The birthplace of philosopher Confucius, Qufu in Shandong province, hosted the award ceremony of the 20th UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy on Saturday evening where projects from Bangladesh, Ireland and Morocco were recognized for their contributions to innovation in education and the promotion of equal access to learning.

The prize was presented at the opening ceremony of the 2025 China International Confucius Cultural Festival.

The award winners included Bangladesh's NGO Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha for its Solar-powered Floating Schools program; Ireland's National Adult Literacy Agency for its Learn with NALA eLearning Website program; and Morocco's Directorate of the Second Chance School and Inclusive Education of the Ministry of National Education, Preschool and Sports for its Second Chance School and Inclusive Education initiative.

"These initiatives demonstrate how innovation can respond to

opportunity, foster inclusion, and most importantly, empower young people and adults with the skills to thrive," said Stefania Giannini, UNESCO's assistant director-general for education.

Yet challenges remain, as close to 740 million youth and adults worldwide still lack basic literacy skills, and two-thirds of them are women, Giannini said.

"As the Confucius Prize enters its third decade this year, this year's laureates remind us of literacy's enduring power for dignity, equality and change," she said.

Established in 2005, the UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy is the first international award named after an influential Chinese figure within the UNESCO system. It honors outstanding achievements in education, particularly in improving literacy in rural areas and promoting women's and children's education. The prize reflects Confucius' enduring educational philosophies.

"Everyone should have a right to education, and education brings a more harmonious role," said Elaine Cohalan, innovation manager at Ireland's National Adult Literacy Agen-

cy. "That's what we advocate — that education should be available to everyone equally, and that having your education means a better society and a better world."

Over the past two decades, the prize has recognized 57 projects across 36 countries, including South Africa, Spain and Pakistan, benefiting more than a million individuals that include women, out-of-school youth and the rural poor.

It has promoted global educational equity and advanced the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal of quality education.

This year marks the 2,576th anniversary of the birth of Confucius. Events were held across the country, including in the city of Changsha, Hunan province, Quzhou, Zhejiang province and Beijing, on Sunday to commemorate him.

Study tours were launched during the festival, featuring six thematic itineraries that trace the philosopher's footsteps and weave together his enduring legacy with the core tenets of Confucian philosophy.

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China braces for holiday travel surge

By LUO WANGSHU and ZHAO YIMENG

Travel demand in China will stay strong during the upcoming National Day and Mid-Autumn Festival break, with 2.36 billion trips forecast and multiple sectors gearing up to ensure smooth journeys, officials said on Sunday.

"The eight-day holiday will see strong and diverse travel demand, whether for family visits or tourism," said Li Yang, vice-minister of transport, at a news conference in Beijing.

Average daily trips are projected to reach 295 million, up 3.2 percent from 2024. The holiday will begin on Wednesday and end on Oct 8. Self-driving will dominate holiday travel, with about 1.87 billion trips expected, or nearly 80 percent of the total. Highway traffic could exceed 70 million vehicle trips per day at peak times, including 14 million new energy vehicle journeys.

"Travelers driving new energy vehicles should plan their fuel and charging stops in advance," Li said. "We have asked service areas nationwide to step up charging services, with some adding new charging piles and even mobile charging units."

Travel peaks are likely to occur on Wednesday, when passenger flows may top 340 million trips, and again on Oct 7 and 8 as people return from their travels.

Tourism demand remains strong, with Shanghai, Beijing, Chongqing

and Chengdu, Sichuan province, among the most popular domestic destinations. Outbound travel to Japan, South Korea and Southeast Asia is also expected to increase.

To ensure smooth travel, authorities are coordinating resources across rail, road, water and air. "We are making targeted plans to ease congestion and improve charging services," Li said.

Car rental demand is also surging. "Car rental and self-drive tourism have become a new choice during holidays," Li said. "We expect double-digit growth during this year's holiday."

Authorities are expanding cross-city return options and encouraging rental firms to reduce or waive fees in key clusters such as Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei, the Yangtze River Delta and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Services such as deposit-free rentals and 24-hour pick-up and return are also being promoted.

Railways will carry an estimated 219 million passengers between Monday and Oct 10, a record high. "The railway system will maximize capacity and optimize scheduling," said Wu Dejin, deputy director of the National Railway Administration. "We will dynamically analyze ticketing data and add temporary services on routes with concentrated demand."

On Wednesday, passenger flows are also expected to peak across the railway system, with about 13,000

train journeys running daily and more than 18 million passenger trips carried out on average. Air travel is forecast to hit 19.2 million passenger trips, up 3.6 percent year-on-year.

"The holiday will bring another peak after the summer travel season," said Xiong Jie, chief pilot of the Civil Aviation Administration of China. "The international market will continue to grow, especially to East Asia and Southeast Asia, while demand for South Asia and Europe is also picking up."

Weather conditions may add uncertainty to the travel rush. Xiao Chan, deputy director of the National Climate Center, said that during the holiday, parts of western China and the Huanghuai region — covering areas between the Yellow and Huai rivers in central and eastern China — will see frequent rainfall, while the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and northern part of the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region are likely to experience rain and snow.

Cold fronts will be active and mainly track northward, bringing lower-than-usual temperatures to Xinjiang, Shaanxi and Henan provinces, while much of the rest of the country will remain warmer than average.

"Toward the end of the holiday, a typhoon may affect southern coastal areas," Xiao added.

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Former agricultural minister sentenced for bribery

By CAO YIN
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Tang Renjian, former minister of agriculture and rural affairs, was sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve for bribery, a court in Changchun, Jilin province, announced on Sunday.

Tang was also deprived of political rights for life, with all his personal assets confiscated. His illicit gains and related interests were ordered to be turned over to the State treasury, according to a ruling by the Changchun Intermediate People's Court.

In China, a suspended death sentence is typically commuted to life imprisonment if the convicted person commits no new offenses during the two-year probation period. The sentence can be further reduced for good behavior.

The court found that from 2007 to 2024, Tang used his positions — including role as governor of Gansu province and minister of agriculture and rural affairs — to seek benefits for individuals and departments in various matters such as business operations, project contracting and job adjustments.

In return, Tang accepted bribes worth 268 million yuan (\$377 million), the court said.

"Tang should be convicted of bribery and sentenced to death because the amount of his bribes was extremely large, causing huge losses to the country and the people," the court said in its ruling.

However, it added that leniency was shown because Tang confessed, voluntarily reported bribes unknown to investigators and agreed to hand over his illicit gains.

Tang, 63, a native of Chongqing, began his career in 1983 and joined the Communist Party of China in 1991. He worked in the country's agricultural sector for decades.

He was placed under investigation for suspected serious violations of Party discipline and national laws in May 2024. Six months later, he was expelled from the Party and removed from public office.

In April, he was indicted on the charge of bribery. In July, the court publicly heard the case.

Jiangxi Governor Ye Jianchun said in his speech that the province, designated a national demonstration zone for TCM reform, has been improving the TCM industry and its healthcare system.

He said Jiangxi has more than 2,200 institutions and a digital network linking urban and rural areas. The province aims to expand the sector to more than 150 billion yuan (\$21 billion) by 2026.

According to China's National Health Commission, acupuncture is now recognized in 113 WHO member states, and TCM has spread to 196 countries and regions worldwide.