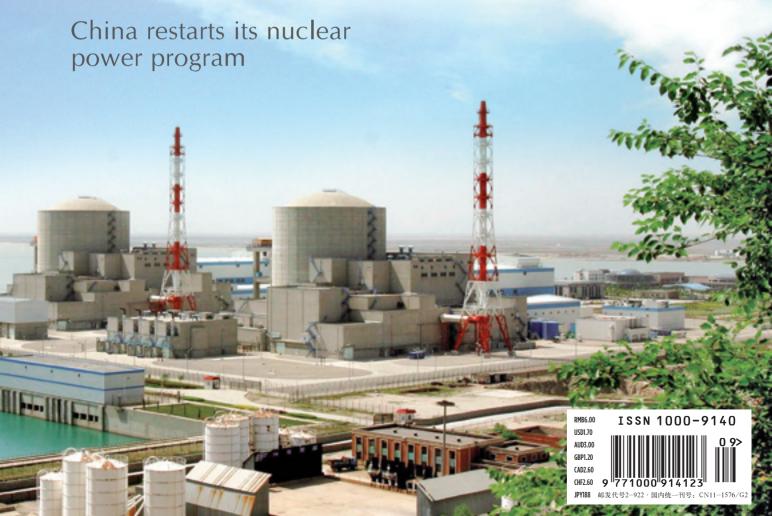
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Cover Photo: Tianwan Nuclear Power Plant in east China's Jiangsu Province (CFP)

Safe and **Efficient Power**

China's rapid economic growth requires a source of energy to fuel it, which is why the country has to strive to develop its nuclear power sector.

Nuclear power has remarkable advantages in energy production efficiency. Through fission, the energy produced by 1 kg of uranium-235 is equal to that produced by 2,700 tons of coal. For a million-kw nuclear power plant, only 30 tons of nuclear fuel is needed every year, while a thermal power plant of the same capacity will need 3.3 million tons of coal. A nuclear power plant only releases 1.6 percent of the carbon dioxide emitted by a thermal power plant of the same scale. Also, nuclear power plants do not emit sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides or dust, and nuclear power is a cheap source of electricity. Most of China's 13 nuclear power generators now offer electricity cheaper than local standard prices.

China has given priority to saving energy and reducing emissions in its 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-15). By 2015 emissions of carbon dioxide will reduce by 17 percent compared to 2010, and emissions of sulfur dioxide will reduce by 8 percent; the proportion of non-fossil fuels will be raised from 8.3 percent in 2010 to 11.4 percent. To achieve these goals, China must develop clean energy.

The potential of hydropower in China is small, while wind power, solar energy and other new energies are unlikely to see rapid development due to technological bottlenecks and natural conditions. In comparison, nuclear power can provide stable and a large volume of power. It is also ahead of other new energy technologies in stability, reliability and technical and industrial maturity. Thus, developing nuclear power is clearly the best choice for China to secure its power supplies.

Development of nuclear power should be based on one thing: safety. After the Fukushima accident in March 2011, China accelerated the pace of its nuclear power safety checks. But compared with big nuclear power users such as the United States and France, which have more than 50 years of experience in nuclear power management, China is still a student. Therefore, China should not only carry out safety checks, but also strengthen international exchange and cooperation. Based on strict inspection, China needs to formulate stricter regulation on nuclear power safety. All the nuclear power plants that are currently in operation need to be supervised strictly, and the technology standards of those under construction need to be improved.

In the long term, the country should build a stronger team of nuclear power professionals, adopt advanced technologies and enhance safety measures to improve the safety and reliability of nuclear power plants.

The history of the development of nuclear power plants in the world proves that nuclear power is a comparatively safe source of energy. China should not abandon efforts of developing it.

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Please provide your name and address along with your submissions. Submissions may be edited.

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Yin Pumin, Liu Yu, Pan Xiaoqiao, Hu Yue, Yuan Yuan, Wang Hairong, Liu Xinlian, Yu Yan, Yu Lintao, Zhou Xiaoyan, Bai Shi

Photo Editor: Wang Xiang

Photographers: Jiang Xiaoying, Wei Yao

Art: Li Shigong

Art Director: Wang Yajuan

Chief Designer: Cui Xiaodong

Designer: Zhao Boyn

Proofreading: Qin Wenli, Ma Xin

Distribution Director: Pan Changqing

Human Resources: Zhang Xiaoli

International Cooperation: Pan Shuangqin

Legal Counsel: Yue Cheng

North America Bureau Chief Reporter: Chen Wen

Tel/Fax: 1-201-792-0334

E-mail: chenwenwendy@gmail.com

General Editorial Office

Tel: 86-10-68996252

Fax: 86-10-68326628

English Edition Tel: 86-10-68996259

Advertising Department

Tel: 86-10-68995813

Fax: 86-10-68329398

E-mail: ad@bireview.com.cn

Distribution Department

Tel: 86-10-68310644

Fax: 86-10-68328738

E-mail: circulation@bjreview.com.cn

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Celebrating Tibetan New Year

A Tibetan father and his daughter pose for a photo in front of the Potala Palace on February 21, one day before the Tibetan New Year.

Also known as Losar, the Tibetan New Year is the most important festival for Tibetans. It usually falls one month later than the Spring Festival, the Chinese Lunar New Year, and the celebration lasts two weeks. The festival features ancient ceremonies including a ritual representing the struggle between good and evil by chanting and passing fire torches through the crowds.

"The Nanjing Massacre is a proven atrocity recognized by the international community. The Japanese side should abide by the principles of the historic agreements made between the two countries and work to advance bilateral relations in a healthy and stable way. This is in the basic interests of both countries and their peoples."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei, expressing the attitude of the Chinese Government over Nagoya mayor's denial of the Nanjing Massacre, at a press conference in Beijing on February 22

"China will continue to implement a proactive fiscal policy this year amid complicated economic environments both at home and abroad."

Chinese Minister of Finance Xie Xuren, in an article published on the ministry's website, on February 22

"We avoided a nightmare scenario, for Greece, the euro zone, Europe and the global economy."

Greek Finance Minister Evangelos Venizelos, at a press conference in Athens on February 21, after Greece was granted a fresh 130-billion-euro (\$173-billion) rescue loans package

"Topol-M and Yars are new-generation missiles. One can say we are a bit ahead of our American partners in this area."

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, accusing the United States of attempting to destroy the global strategic balance with its antimissile system, at a meeting with top-ranking military officers in Moscow on February 22

THIS WEEK SOCIETY



SEA GUARDIAN A Chinese maritime law enforcement boat on patrol in China's territorial waters on February 19. Routine patrols by China Marine Surveillance officers discovered two Japan Coast Guard survey boats in the East China Sea late that day. The survey boats left the waters after receiving a warning from the Chinese patrols

Genetic Engineering Ban

The freedom of grain producers in China to genetically engineer produce will be limited under a draft law released on February 21 by the Legislative Affairs office of the State Council.

The research, sale, import and export of transgenic grain seeds should comply with state regulations. Institution and individuals must not apply transgenic technologies to principle grain cultivars without approval, said the draft referring to transgenics, the practice of inserting into an organism DNA that is not normally present.

The forthcoming law, the first of its kind in China, aims to ensure grain supply and

security by stabilizing grain output and intensifying supervision over the market.

The draft also includes stipulations concerning the market deployment of grain resources and the safeguarding of grain production, circulation and quality.

According to the draft, the production, circulation and sale of edible vegetable oil will also be subject to the bill.

Health Benefits

China will raise government subsidies for health insurance offered to farmers and non-working urbanites to over 360 yuan (\$57) per person per year by 2015, an increase of 80 percent.

The announcement was made after a State Council executive meeting on February 22. At the meeting, new health reform targets were set for the 2011-15 period.

China's basic health insurance system includes health insurance for urban employees, jointly paid by the government, employers and individuals; there is also health insurance for non-working urban dwellers and rural cooperative health insurance for rural residents, which is co-paid by the government and individuals.

Major reform targets include the expansion of basic health insurance coverage, perfecting the country's essential medicine system, as well as improving community-level clinics and public hospitals.

The ongoing health reforms started in April 2009.

Government Transparency ¬

A report on China's legal development has rated the transparency level of the country's governmental organizations, with the Ministry of Commerce topping the list of 59 central government departments.

According to the report released by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences on February 20, the Ministry of Commerce achieved a score of 67 out of 100 based on evaluations of several factors, including transparency and the public availability of information.

The National Population and Family Planning Commission and the Ministry of Environmental Protection ranked second and third, respectively.

Among provincial-level governments, Beijing led with 72.5 points, followed by Tianjin and Jiangsu Province.

The report said different standards make it

Youngest Go Champion

Jiang Weijie, born in 1991, a Chinese Go player, became champion by defeating Lee Changho of South Korea at the 16th LG Cup Championship on February 15. Go, called weiqi in Chinese, is an ancient board game that originated in China. This victory made Jiang China's youngest Go world champion.

In winning the title, Jiang earned a promotion from the professional fifth dan straight to the ninth dan, the highest rank for professional Go players.





WATER SCARCITY A woman fetches water from a water cellar in Yugu Village in Luliang County, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on February 20. A severe drought has been lingering in Yunnan for three consecutive years, disrupting the lives of 6.3 million people in the province this year



SWEET FRUIT A mother and son visit a strawberry greenhouse in Changping District in Beijing's northern suburbs on February 18, as 1,000 agricultural scientists from around the world met at the seventh International Strawberry Symposium in the district

difficult to compare the transparency levels of government organizations, with many transparency reports lacking clear and detailed information.

Space Docking

China will launch its manned *Shenzhou-9* spacecraft between June and August this year, as well as conduct a space rendezvous and docking mission with the orbiting *Tiangong-1* space lab module, a spokesman for China's manned space program said on February 17.

The space-docking mission will be manually conducted by astronauts, giving China another chance to test its docking technology, the spokesman said.

The Shenzhou-9's three crewmembers will board the Tiangong-1 after the docking is completed, they will spend several days in the module and conduct scientific experiments.

An evaluation of the program was carried out following a previous rendezvous between the *Tiangong-1* and the unmanned *Shenzhou-8* spacecraft, which showed that all relevant systems are in good condition and are ready for a manned docking, the spokesman said.

The orbiting *Tiangong-1* is ready to accommodate the astronauts, and the *Shenzhou-9* spacecraft and its carrier rocket, the Long-March II-F, are undergoing final checks, the spokesman said.

The *Tiangong-1* went into space on September 29, 2011, docking with the *Shenzhou-8* spacecraft to complete China's first space docking mission just over a month later.

Sand Control Program-

An anti-desertification program powered by an investment of 700 million yuan (\$111 million) is expected to begin in October in northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, said the regional forestry department.

The World Bank will provide a loan of \$80 million to help fund the program, with the remaining amount supplied by the local government.

Located on the arid Loess Highlands, Ningxia has been heavily affected by desertification over the years.

The program is designed to reverse the desertification of more than 66,000 hectares of land located near the Ningdong Energy and Chemical Industry Base. It will also improve the ecology of a section of the Yellow River, China's second longest waterway.

Anti-bribery Archive

A national online archive of individuals and companies guilty of bribery has been established, said the Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP) on February 16.

The archive connects all local databases, which store information on bribe givers and takers, making their names available across

Female Role Model

Yi Jiefang, head of NPO-greenlife, an environmentally oriented nonprofit organization, won the 2011 Annual Female Model prize on February 20

In 2000, Yi's son died. In order to fulfill her son's wish of "planting trees and creating forests." Yi quit her job and set up NPO-greenlife three years later. Under her leadership, the organization.

together with hundreds of volunteers, reforested north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region by planting more than 1 million trees there.



the country for public inquiry, according to a statement from the SPP. Prior to this, there was no national listing.

Institutions or individuals can apply for an inquiry if they are suspicious about an individual or company. Anyone discovered to be on the list will likely be disqualified for bidding on government projects, some of these companies will even be forbidden from operating, the SPP said.



TRUE LIES Twins Wan Yiju (right) and Wan Yiheng and their 148-meter-long 3D painting in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong Province, which was recognized by the Guinness World Records Corporate as the world's longest 3D street painting

THIS WEEK ECONOMY



INNOVATIVE PLAYER

A towering machine independently developed by Zoomlion, a Chinese heavy machine producer based in Changsha, central China's Hunan Province

Loosening Liquidity

The People's Bank of China, the central bank, on February 24 lowered the ratio of deposits that banks must set aside in reserves by 0.5 percentage points.

The cut, the second in three months, is part of the country's efforts to enhance market liquidity and shore up the slowing economy.

The move is expected to inject around 400 billion yuan (\$63.54 billion) of capital into the markets.

Property Gloom

In January, 48 cities out of the 70 monitored major cities reported month-on-month decreases in prices of new commercial residences, according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics. Meanwhile, prices stayed unchanged in the rest of the 22 cities.

As for second-hand homes, prices in 54

cities dropped month on month in January, and only five cities saw their prices head north. Prices stayed unchanged in 11 cities.

Policymakers have pledged to continue with a stringent clampdown on the real estate market, despite acute woes of many property developers.

Yin Zhongli, a research fellow with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said housing prices might see steeper falls in the second half of this year if the government maintains tightening measures.

Currency Swap

The People's Bank of China signed a 10-billion-yuan (\$1.59 billion) currency swap agreement with the Central Bank of Turkey on February 21.

The three-year agreement will be extendable by mutual consent, said the central bank.

The move is aimed at enhancing financial

cooperation and promoting bilateral trade.

To promote the international use of the yuan, China has signed currency swap agreements with 15 countries and regions since the onset of the global financial crisis in late 2008.

Yiwu Shines

Yiwu of east China's Zhejiang Province, the country's largest petty commodity market, recorded combined exports of \$1.03 billion to Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa in 2011, soaring 52 percent from the previous year.

Exports to Russia increased 8.5 times year on year. This was largely attributable to Russia's WTO entry last year.

The robust growth has, to some extent, offset the negative impact caused by the eurozone debt crisis and economic uncertainties in the Middle East.

The city's total export value stood at \$9.87 billion last year, up 15 percent from a year ago.

Numbers

1.04 trillion yuan

China's commercial banks raked in net profits of 1.04 trillion yuan (\$165.1 billion) in 2011, according to the China Banking Regulatory Commission.

140.9 billion yuan

China's funds outstanding for foreign exchange increased 140.9 billion yuan (\$16.7 billion) in January 2012, the first increase after three consecutive months of decreases, said the People's Bank of China.

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POWERING UP

Engineers work to maintain rural electricity equipment in Julu County, north China's Hebei Province, so as to ensure power supplies for irrigation and sowing



iPhone Fever

China Telecom announced it will soon start selling Apple Inc.'s iPhone 4S smart phones, making it the second mobile carrier to offer the product in the world's No. 1 mobile phone market.

Analysts believe a new carrier partner will help Apple increase distribution channels and further boost sales in the Chinese market. It will also help China Telecom, the No. 3 mobile carrier in the country, to catch up with bigger rivals China Mobile and China Unicom in the high-end market.

China Telecom will start by offering the iPhone 4S running on its code division multiple access (CDMA) network on March 9. It will start accepting online orders on March 2.

Small Lending Thrives

China's micro-credit sector is getting into full

swing as the country lends a helping hand to smaller firms.

By the end of 2011, the country had 4,282 micro-credit companies, surging 63.81 percent from the previous year, according to data from the People's Bank of China.

The companies extended 193.5 billion yuan (\$30.71 billion) of new loans last year, up from 120.2 billion yuan (\$19.1 billion) one year earlier. Outstanding loans of China's micro-lenders stood at 391.5 billion yuan (\$62.1 billion) by the end of 2011, up from 197.5 billion yuan (\$31.3 billion) in 2010.

While commercial banks consider small and medium-sized enterprises larger risks, the micro-financing provides a viable solution to addressing the capital shortages. In China, the micro-lenders face many restrictions, such as a ban on deposit-taking. But at a recently meeting of the State Council, policymakers pledged to loosen those restrictions and transform qualified micro-credit firms into rural banks.

New Tsinghua President

Chen Jining was appointed president of Tsinghua University, one of China's leading universities, taking over from Gu Binglin on February 20.

Chen, 48, has bachelor's and master's degrees from Tsinghua University. After completing his master's degree he went to Britain for further study and received his doctoral degree in Brunel University.

After returning to China in 1998, he became an associate professor in the School of Environment at Tsinghua. In 2006, Chen was appointed vice president of Tsinghua.



28 billion yuan

The Ministry of Finance sold 28 billion yuan (\$4.44 billion) in 10-year book-entry treasury bonds from February 23 to 27.

11,823

Chery Automobile Co. Ltd. based in east China's Anhui Province, exported 11,823 vehicles in January, up 21 percent year on year.

THIS WEEK WORLD



YEMEN

Yemeni men show their identity cards as they line up outside a polling station in Sanaa on February 21. Yemenis took part in a one-candidate presidential election to vote for a successor to outgoing President Ali Abdullah Saleh



Guns are crushed in north Mexico's Ciudad Juarez on February 16. The Mexican Army destroyed at least 6,000 rifles and pistols seized from drug cartels

MEXICO



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (right front) listens to an expert during a tour of Tehran's research reactor on February 15. Iran's first domestically produced 20-percent enriched nuclear fuel was used for the research reactor that day

IRAN



Demonstrators shout slogans outside the U.S.-run Bagram Airfield north of Kabul during a protest against *Koran* desecration on February 21. NATO soldiers have been accused of burning copies of the Muslim holy book

AFGHANISTAN

THE CZECH REPUBLIC

German acrobats perform during the International Festival of Circus Art in Prague on February 15





A northern red fox chases a red-crowned crane at a birds' sanctuary in Tsurui on Japan's northern island of Hokkaido on February 18. Some 400 red-crowned cranes, migrating from eastern Russia, northeast China and eastern Mongolia, have been observed in the village over the winter

JAPAN

COVER STORY

PRESSING THE NUCLEAR RESTART BUTTON

China will continue to safely develop nuclear power after a one-year construction hiatus By Lan Xinzhen

fter a yearlong suspension, construction of nuclear power facilities across China may be starting up again, signaling the resumption of a 1-trillionyuan (\$158.73 billion) nuclear investment across the country.

In February, Harbin Electric Corp., one of China's major nuclear power equipment producers, received an order for the main components required in nuclear power generation from Tianwan Nuclear Power Plant, located in Lianyungang, east China's Jiangsu Province. This was the first order since the country suspended nuclear power projects last March following the nuclear disaster at Fukushima, Japan.

Although nothing official has been announced, industry insiders say the suspension has been lifted, as the construction of the No.1 generating unit of Sanmen Nuclear Power Plant in east China's Zhejiang Province restarted, and three nuclear power-related planning reports were recently submitted to the State Council for review.

China's

Beijing







Ling'ao Nuclear Power Plant Phase II

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Nuclear Power Plants in Operation

Tianwan Plant

Located in Lianyungang, Jiangsu Province, Tianwan Nuclear Power Plant introduced nuclear power technologies from Russia. Its two 1,060-megawatt pressurized water reactor (PWR) generating units were put into commercial operation in May 2007 and August 2007, respectively.



Qinshan Nuclear Power Plant Phase II

Qinshan Plant Phase I

Located in Haiyan, Zhejiang Province, Qinshan Nuclear Power Plant Phase I is the first 300-megawatt PWR nuclear power plant independently designed, constructed, operated and managed by China. The plant came into commercial operation in April 1994.

Qinshan Plant Phase II

Qinshan Nuclear Power Plant Phase II is also a PWR plant. Its first two 650-megawatt generating units came into commercial operation in April 2002 and May 2004, respectively.

Its third generating unit, also with an installed capacity of 650-megawatt, came into commercial operation in October 2010.

Qinshan Plant Phase III

Qinshan Nuclear Power Plant Phase III adopts nuclear power technologies from Canada and is the first commercial heavy water nuclear reactor project. Its two 728-megawatt generating units came into commercial operation in December 2002 and July 2003, respectively.



Dayawan Plant

Located in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, Dayawan Nuclear Power Plant is the country's firs large-scale commercial nuclear power plant that introduced foreign capital, equipment and technology. Its two 984-megawatt PWR generating units came into commercial operation in February and May 1994, respectively.

Ling'ao Plant Phase I

Located in Shenzhen, Guangdong, Ling'ao Nuclear Power Plant Phase I is the second large-scale commercial nuclear power plant built in Guangdong. It has two 990-megawatt PWR generating units, which came into commercial operation in May 2002 and January 2003, respectively.

Ling'ao Plant Phase II

Ling'ao Nuclear Power Plant Phase II is part of China's efforts to propel indigenous innovation as a majority of its technologies were domestically created. It has two 1,080-megawatt PWR generating units. The No.1 unit came into commercial operation in September 2010. The No. 2 unit came into commercial operation in August 2011.



The reports are expected to be officially released later this year.

Safety check

After the nuclear accident at Fukushima on March 11, 2011, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao chaired a State Council meeting on March 16 and made four decisions on China's nuclear power development: A complete safety check was required immediately on all nuclear facilities; approval of newly built nuclear power projects will be tightened; formulation of a nuclear safety plan will be accelerated; middle and long-term development plan of nuclear power will be readjusted, and before the plan is approved, approval of nuclear power projects, including preliminary work of the projects, should be suspended.

Following the meeting, a nation-wide safety screening on all operational and under-construction nuclear power facilities was put into effect, with approval of some construction projects suspended outright. From April 15 to August 5, the comprehensive check group on national civil nuclear facilities jointly organized by the National Nuclear Safety Administration (NNSA) of the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP), the National Energy Administration (NEA) and some other departments checked all the country's power plants.

The safety check drew lessons from the Fukushima accident, forcing many nuclear power operators to take a more aggressive approach to nuclear power safety.

On January 21, the generating units at the Ling'ao Nuclear Power Plant in south China's Guangdong Province were upgraded, which ended on February 10. The overhaul showed that the plant was in good condition. Starting on February 12, the generators at Tianwan began a 50-day overhaul, including 8,436 checks on individual components and technological upgrades.

Wang Binghua, Chairman of the State Nuclear Power Technology Corp., said besides safety check of nuclear power facilities in operation, designing, equipment manufacturing and construction of projects with third-generation AP1000 technology have been slowed down.

In fact, the AP1000 projects in Sanmen and Haiyang, east China's Shandong Province are safer than second-generation technology used at Fukushima. But China still places safety, not just technology upgrading, as its top priority in the construction of the third-generation nuclear power technology.

Capacity expanded

According to NEA's Readjustment Plan of Middle and Long-Term Development of

Nuclear Power, which has been submitted to the State Council for approval, China plans to install a total nuclear power capacity of 80 million kilowatts (kw) by 2020.

Donghai Securities Co. Ltd. estimated that at least 60 million kw of nuclear power installed capacity will be added by 2020, excluding the capacity under construction now, which will drive up investment by 1.2 trillion yuan (\$190.48 billion).

A plan previously issued by the National Development and Reform Commission says by 2020 the proportion of renewable energy among primary energy consumption will reach 15 percent, but in 2011, the proportion was only 8.9 percent, and nuclear power only accounted for 1.038 percent of the country's primary energy consumption.

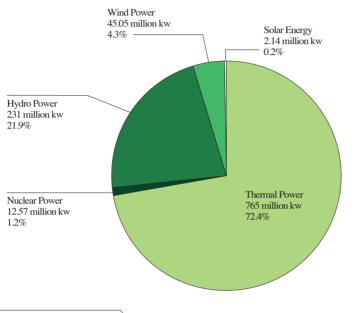
Pan Ziqiang, a member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and an expert of nuclear radiation protection and environmental protection, said the disparity will be made up for mainly through development of nuclear power, because most exploitable hydropower resources have been developed, leaving little potential for future development. Also, restricted by technologies and natural conditions, wind power, solar energy and biomass energy are unlikely to see rapid development. Compared with other clean energies, only nuclear power can be developed in a large

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Energy Generation in China

At the end of 2011 the total installed power capacity in China was 1.056 billion kw.



(Source: National Development and Reform Commission)

enough scale to meet China's energy needs.

An MEP news release showed that in the future China's safety standards for nuclear power will be raised. The Nuclear Safety Plan completed by the MEP and submitted to the State Council mainly focuses on supervision so as to improve the safety of nuclear power facilities and nuclear power utilization, reduce risks of radiation, ensure operation safety and safety to the environment and public health, and push forward safe, sound and sustainable development of nuclear energy and technology.

China has also made changes to its supervision mechanism for nuclear safety. The NEA will set up a nuclear power department, the NNSA will increase from one department to three and the number of nuclear safety supervision personnel will increase by 1,000, the State Administration for Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense will also set up a department of nuclear emergencies.

Doubts remain

As China gears up to resume approval of nuclear

power projects, arguments against construction of new nuclear power plants abound.

On February 7, a government document requiring the cessation of the nuclear power project construction in Pengze, Jiangxi Province attracted widespread attention on the Internet. The document was issued by the government of Wangjiang County, Anhui Province, as the project in Pengze sits along the Yangtze River, on the opposite shore from Wangjiang.

This report says Pengze nuclear power project will have hidden dangers if completed.

Establishment of Pengze nuclear power plant was approved two years ago, but was suspended by the State Council after the Fukushima accident last year.

The opposition of Wangjiang County Government is also supported by He Zuoxiu, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. He published articles opposing construction of nuclear power plants in the inland areas of the country, mentioning that problems such as construction of Pengze nuclear power plant will be blocked by drought and nuclear power plants in inland areas will pollute rivers.

Pan said this reflects the fact that people are still concerned about the safety of nuclear power plants.

"From the safety and nuclear safety standards, there is no difference between inland and coastal nuclear power plants. The site of Pengze nuclear power project is good, and in principle its safety is ensured," Pan said.

According to Pan, China's provisions on preventing and protecting against environmental radiation in nuclear-powered factories impose detailed requirements on site selection and safety standards of nuclear-powered factories. Pengze nuclear power project is located along the Yangtze River, which has plenty of water and is highly capable of diluting and diffusing pollut-

At present, China has approved a total of 43 nuclear power plants, with a planned capacity of 200 million kw. These plants are located in 16 provinces, including eight inland provinces such as Jiangxi and Anhui.

It is unknown whether opposition from Wangjiang can successfully stop construction of the Pengze project, but according to information from the environmental protection authority, since there are still big disputes on the safety of building nuclear power plants in inland areas, China will temporarily suspend approval of building nuclear power plants inland.

The voice of opposition against nuclear power has always existed in China. An organization named Ocean Protection Commune once organized a signature campaign from March 2006 to January 2008 opposing construction of nuclear power plants, and sent the signatures in written and electronic forms to the MEP and the State Oceanic Administration.

According to a media release from the Ocean Protection Commune, labeling nuclear power as "clean energy" is a total lie.

The commune thinks that there are risks of leaks during the transportation of nuclear fuels. It is also hard to ensure safety in disposal of nuclear waste.

If war breaks out, the enemy state will be able to cause serious nuclear radiation by targeting nuclear power plants, said the release.

The organization says these are problems faced by all nuclear power countries and as of now there is no safe solution.



lanxinzhen@bjreview.com

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