

WORLD: CHINA-U.S. STRATEGY SESSION P.16

NATION: LIFE IN KASHGAR P.30

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## Cover Story 12

### Safety First

Nuclear standards enhanced



## World 16

### Dialogue Overcoming Disputes

Beijing and Washington engage in talks

## THE DESK

» Safeguarding Nuclear Safety **02**

## THIS WEEK

## COVER STORY

## WORLD

» Tying the Knot **18**

China-US, permanent partners?

» Is Arab Winter Coming? **20**

Egypt's new round of unrest

## NATION

» Drive Domestic **24**

Adding fuel to China's car companies

» Jamming Wildlife Trafficking **26**

On the hunt for wildlife smugglers

» So Kashgar **30**

A close look at a far-flung city

## BUSINESS

» Anti-Dumping Action **36**

A risky tit-for-tat trade spat

» Market Watch **38**

## CULTURE

» A Sound for the Times **42**

Children's songs for the modern era

» Journey to the West **44**

A fresh take on an ancient tale

## FORUM

» For Doctors, What Matters Most? **46**

## EXPAT'S EYE

» Chengdu Impression **48**

A British pupil's perspective

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## Nation 28

### Location, Location, Location

Booming trade in a Xinjiang City



## Business 34

### Reform Goes On

Financial sector spurs the real economy

Cover Photo: Unit 1 of the Haiyang Nuclear Power Plant in east China's Shandong Province under construction (LI ZIHENG)

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EDITOR

## Safeguarding Nuclear Safety

The State Council, China's cabinet, recently approved the release of a revised edition of the National Nuclear Emergency Contingency Plan. Following the latest release, the Central Government has also carried out a week-long activity to strengthen nuclear safety education nationwide.

Nuclear energy is clean and low-cost. It is playing an increasingly important role in promoting economic and social development today. As of the end of March, China has 17 reactors in operation and 28 more under construction, which is the largest scale in the world. China is driving on the fast lane to systematically develop nuclear power.

Safety is the lifeline of nuclear energy development. Emergency contingency planning provides the final guarantee that ensures nuclear security. The Chinese Government places the highest priority upon the safety and control of nuclear plants. China took measures to further enhance security of domestic nuclear projects after the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant accident in Japan in 2011.

Compared with the previous 2005 edition, the revised plan explicitly elaborates on the organizations and command mechanism responsible for dealing with nuclear emergencies, establishing a three-level emergency response mechanism that includes the Central Government, provincial administrations and agencies affiliated with nuclear facilities.

Currently, China has established eight national technical support centers and six emergency rescue teams, as well as radiation monitoring networks of the environment, ocean, food and drinking water. The country has held over 300 emergency exercises relating to nuclear safety.

Furthermore, China has set up emergency organization and command headquarters in 16 provinces and municipalities to cope with nuclear accidents. All nuclear facilities also have their emergency command control centers. In view of current efforts on nuclear safety, it is believed that China is capable of implementing emergency response measures and preparedness to prevent nuclear accidents. ■

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# TORRENTIAL DISASTER

Heavy rain lasting several days collapses a bridge in Qinglian Township in southwest China's Sichuan Province on July 9. Witnesses reported that three cars and one cargo truck fell into the water.

Serious rainstorms had left 16 people dead and 19 missing since July 7 in China, said the Ministry of Civil Affairs on July 10.



## Tibet by Rail

A freight train speeds past the Kunlun Mountains on the Qinghai-Tibet Railway in north-west China's Qinghai Province on July 9.

In the seven years since its operation, the Qinghai-Tibet Railway, the longest and highest railway in the world, has carried nearly 64 million passengers and 300 million tons of goods.

Meanwhile, several new railway lines are either under construction or being planned to form a rail network on the sparsely populated Qinghai-Tibet Plateau.



HOU DEJIAN

## Forest Coverage

The State Forestry Administration said on July 10 that China will spend 212.9 billion yuan (\$34.7 billion) by 2020 to fund forestry projects as part of efforts to improve the country's environment.

The money will be used to foster 21.67 million hectares of forestry and increase China's forest coverage rate by 4.1 percent by 2020, the administration said.

China created 6.01 million hectares of forested areas in 2012, and projects aimed at tackling sandstorm problems in Beijing and Tianjin helped foster 537,000 hectares of green land last year, according to China's National Afforestation Committee.

China's forest coverage had totaled 195 million hectares, or 20.36 percent of the country's total area, by the end of 2008.

## Gov't Spending

The State Council, China's cabinet, issued a timetable on July 10 for disclosing government spending on receptions, vehicles and overseas trips, as well as information on inves-

tigations into major accidents.

According to the State Council's plan, provincial governments should disclose their spending on the three items starting from 2013, and municipal and county governments should disclose such information by 2015.

Moreover, reports on investigations of major accidents should be fully disclosed to the public starting from 2014.

The State Council identified nine categories of information as priorities

in promoting government transparency, including information on administrative examinations and approvals; budgeting and government expenses on receptions, vehicles and overseas trips; subsidized housing; food and drug safety; environmental protection; production safety; pricing and charges; land appropriation and demolition; and public welfare institutions and enterprises, particularly the education sector.

## Maritime Law

China's maritime authority has beefed up its law enforcement capabilities in order to further protect the country's oceanic rights and interests, according to an official document that was unveiled on July 9.

The document, which was posted on the Chinese Government's

website, includes a rule regarding the duties and functions of the State Oceanic Administration (SOA). The SOA was restructured earlier this year along with several other government departments.

The rule, which was recently approved by the State Council, highlights the SOA's expanded duties concerning law enforcement and the protection of maritime rights.

The maritime police command, a department under the SOA, will be tasked with commanding and deploying marine police officers, according to the rule.

The SOA is responsible for conducting law enforcement activities in waters that are under Chinese jurisdiction, the rule says.

Safeguarding maritime boundaries and dealing with criminal activity on the sea are among the SOA's designated duties.

The rule also says the administration is responsible for guarding the safety of key maritime areas and coping with emergencies.



TUOPIETUO



## SUMMER FUN

Tourists raft on the water at the Chaotianhou scenic spot in Xingshan County, central China's Hubei Province, on July 9, during a lingering heat wave

## Urbanization Rate

China's urbanization rate had reached 52.57 percent by the end



## DRILL ON

Chinese and Russian liaison officers collaborate during joint naval drills starting on July 8 near Vladivostok, Russia



of 2012 but about 200 million new urbanites are without urban permanent resident permits, according to the 2012 City Development Report of China released on July 5.

Although the number of Chinese urbanites has surpassed the number of rural residents, there is still a long way to go for China to become a truly city-based nation due to the current registered permanent residence system, or *hukou*, said the report.

Chinese living in cities or towns with urban *hukou* enjoy far more benefits in education, medical service and social security than those without.

The report was created by the China Association of Mayors and has been released annually since 2001.

China had a total of 658 cities and 19,881 towns across the country at the end of 2012, according to the report.

## Ex-Minister Verdict

China's former railways minister Liu Zhijun was sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve on July 8 for bribery and abuse of power.

As well as the suspended death sentence, the Beijing No. 2 Intermediate People's Court deprived the 60-year-old of his political rights for life and confiscated all his personal property for taking bribes. Liu was also sentenced to 10 years in jail for abuse of power, according to the court verdict.

The court found that from 1986 to 2011, Liu took advantage of his positions as an official of local railway bureaus as well as the former Ministry of Railways, and helped 11 people win promotions, project deals and cargo transportation

contracts. He accepted 64.6 million yuan (\$10.53 million) in bribes from them during this period.

The court said that although most of economic losses have been recovered, leniency will not be given regarding Liu's crime of power abuse, as it is especially serious in terms of both circumstances and consequences.

## Language's Age

Archeologists in China have confirmed that the inscriptions found on artifacts unearthed in east China's Zhejiang Province represent the earliest record of Chinese characters

in history, pushing the origins of the written language back another 1,000 years.

The pottery pieces and stone vessels were unearthed at the Zhuangqiaofen archeological site between 2003 and 2006.

Experts concluded that the symbols represented the earliest known Chinese characters, which could be traced to the Liangzhu civilization during the Neolithic Age some 5,000 years ago in today's Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces, *China Youth Daily* reported on July 9.

The inscriptions existed some 1,000 years before oracle bone script, commonly held as the origin

of the Chinese language system. Oracular inscriptions on turtle shells date back to the Shang Dynasty (1600-1046 B.C.).

Xu Xinmin, a researcher with the Zhejiang Archeological Institute, said that the repetitive pattern of some of these symbols led archeologists to believe that the inscription, just like the oracle bone script, is a primitive version of a pictographic language.

## Data Cooperation

China began providing remote-sensing satellite data to Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO) member states on July 5.

The China National Space Administration (CNSA) and APSCO signed an agreement on Earth-observing satellite data-sharing at a meeting on the day.

The data will be used to aid in natural disaster reduction and relief in the Asia-Pacific region, according to the agreement.

CNSA Director Ma Xingrui, was elected president of the APSCO Council during the meeting.

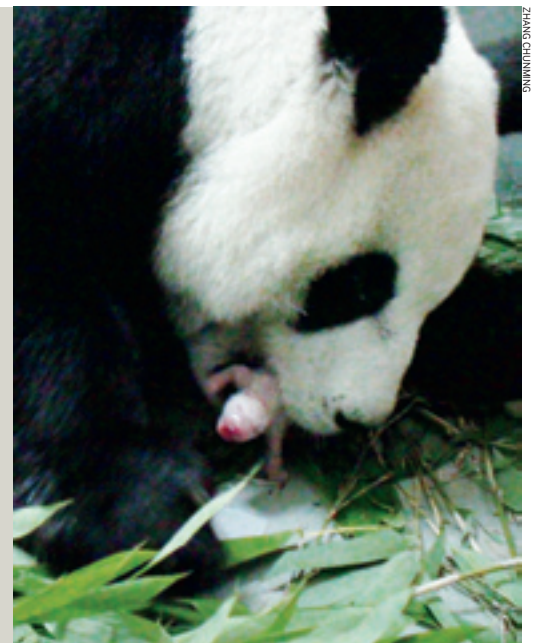
APSCO is an inter-governmental organization established in 2005, with China as its host and one of its nine member states.

## Baby Panda

Giant panda Yuan Yuan nuzzles her newborn cub after delivery on July 6 at Taipei Zoo in Taiwan.

The female cub was born to Yuan Yuan and male panda Tuan Tuan, which were given to Taiwan in 2008 by the mainland. Yuan Yuan was fertilized via artificial insemination.

The zoo said that the cub will remain in an incubator for one month and subsequently be put in the care of her mother if they are found to be interacting suitably.



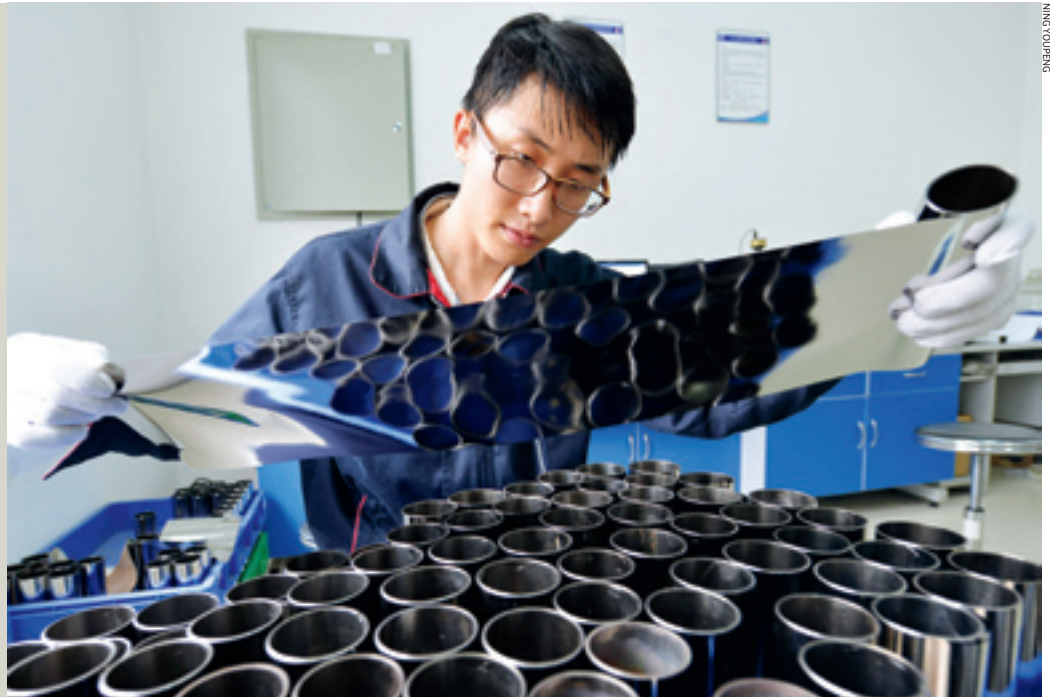


## New Material

Ni Fei, a research and development staff member at a company in Jimo, east China's Shandong Province, examines amorphous ribbons on July 9.

An amorphous ribbon is a thin foil widely used in electricity, electronics, aeronautics and astronautics.

The fifth-generation super-thin amorphous ribbon was invented in Jimo and has broken the Japanese monopoly on the sector. The city produces 3,000 tons of amorphous ribbon every year.



NING YU/REUTERS

## China-Swiss FTA

China and Switzerland signed a free trade agreement (FTA) in Beijing on July 6, capping over two years of negotiations. It is the first free trade pact inked between China and a country in continental Europe.

Once the FTA goes into effect, as much as 99.7 percent of Chinese exports to Switzerland will be immediately exempted from tariffs, while 84.2 percent of Swiss exports to China will eventually receive zero tariff treatment.

The deal is also expected to set

new rules in the areas of environment, labor, intellectual property and government procurement, said Chinese Minister of Commerce Gao Hucheng.

Schneider-Ammann, head of the Swiss Federal Department of Economic Affairs, said the FTA will inject vitality into bilateral economic and trade ties.

Under the deal, Swiss enterprises' access to the Chinese market will be better protected on the basis of existing laws, said Schneider-Ammann.

China is Switzerland's larg-

est trading partner in Asia, while Switzerland is China's eighth largest trading partner in Europe, according to China's Ministry of Commerce.

## Lackluster Trade

China's exports took a tumble in June, putting pressure on growth of the world's second largest economy.

Exports dropped 3.1 percent year on year in June to \$174.32 billion, while imports went down 0.7 percent from a year earlier to \$147.19 billion, said the General Administration of Customs (GAC) on July 10. Total foreign trade in June declined 2 percent year on year to \$321.51 billion.

GAC spokesman Zheng Yuesheng attributed the slump in

foreign trade mainly to weak global demand, a rising yuan, higher labor costs, various trade frictions and faltering domestic demand.

In the first six months, China's foreign trade, with 8.6-percent growth year on year, recorded the best performance among the world's major economies despite the fact that it is slowing down, he said.

## Inflation Rebound

China's consumer price index (CPI), a main gauge of inflation, grew by 2.7 percent year on year in June, but analysts say the acceleration indicates little inflationary pressure.

June's CPI was up from 2.1 percent in May, but still well below the government's full-year target of 3.5 percent.

The National Bureau of Statistics attributed the acceleration to a 4.9-percent rise in food prices, as well as the base effect.

"From a global perspective, 2.7-percent inflation growth will not add too much pressure to the economy. Due to insufficient domestic and foreign demand, we expect mild inflation this year, probably within



OWEN SANG/REUTERS



## PRIVATE POWER PLANT

Zhu Fengxi, a resident in Chengde, north China's Hebei Province, learns safety tips from staff at a local power company. Zhu installed 180 solar panels inside his farm to generate power at home



## Numbers

95

Number of Chinese companies on the list of *Fortune* 500 companies compiled by *Fortune* magazine

3rd

China's ranking in terms of outbound direct investment in 2012

490 bln yuan

Total sales from China's top 10 real estate developers in the first half of 2013, up 44 percent year on year

2.58 bln yuan

Amount the Central Government has set aside as subsidies to boost the amount of loans for agricultural businesses



## SMALL GRAPES, BIG MONEY

Ye Ping, a farmer in Mile, Yunnan Province, shows off grapes from her farm. She plants 11 *mu* (0.73 hectare) of grapes and reaps an annual income of more than 200,000 yuan (\$32,600)



2.5 percent," said Zhang Bin, a researcher with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

## Confidence Drops

Chinese consumers, particularly those with bankcards, showed weaker confidence in consumption in June, partly due to an unfavorable economic situation, according to an index released on July 9.

The Bankcard Consumer Confidence Index, compiled by Xinhua News Agency and China UnionPay, a national bankcard association, dropped 0.87 points to hit 85.56 points in June from May, marking the third month-on-month decline.

The index was down 1.11 points on a year-on-year basis in June, according to a report issued along with the index. A lower reading in the index shows a decline in consumers' desire to spend.

The report partly attributed the

drop to an unfavorable macroeconomic situation in China.

The report also cited plunges in the stock market as a factor that dampened consumer confidence, as the benchmark Shanghai Composite Index dived more than 13 percent in June.

The index, first released in April 2009, is based on bankcard transaction data and analyses of structural changes in urban consumption.

## Euro-Asia Forum

The 2013 Euro-Asia Economic Forum will be held from September 26-28 in Xi'an, capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, according to a press conference held in Beijing on July 5.

The forum will have more than 50 meetings covering different fields, including a conference on new energy, clean coal technology, and nanotechnology. It will also host several parallel activities, such as meetings on financial cooperation, energy development, economic growth, cultural heritage, education, new technology, tourism development and environmental protection.

The Euro-Asia Economic Forum is dominated by Shanghai Cooperation Organization countries, which include China, Russia and Central Asian nations.

The biennial forum was launched in 2005 and has been held four times since. Xi'an was named the permanent venue for the forum in 2007.

## Price Cut

Customers browse bottled infant milk formula at a supermarket in Ganyu County, east China's Jiangsu Province.

Several foreign infant milk formula producers announced price cuts in China after the National Development and Reform Commission launched anti-trust investigations against them for allegedly fixing prices.





# THIS WEEK WORLD



## ISRAEL

A man browses books at a multilingual mobile beach library in the Mediterranean coastal city of Tel Aviv on July 9. The library provides books for people to read while relaxing on the beach



ZANUJIA/AP



EBV/PHHX



## SPAIN

Participants run ahead of bulls during the San Fermin Festival on July 7 in Pamplona, northern Spain. The Running of the Bulls Festival, a hallmark of Spanish culture, attracts thousands of tourists annually



## AUSTRALIA

Pedestrians walk past the "yuk" sculpture at Hyde Park in Sydney on July 8. The sculpture, which spells out the word using thousands of used cigarette butts, reminds smokers of the pollution their discarded butts can leave behind



JIN LIN/ENS





## BELGIUM

Workers put up a poster declaring Latvia's accession to the euro zone on the wall of the EU headquarters building in Brussels on July 9. The Baltic nation is set to adopt the euro as its currency as of January 1, 2014



## TURKEY

Istanbul residents enjoy free dinner provided by the government at the Taksim Square on July 9, the first day of the holy month of Ramadan, during which Muslims refrain from eating and drinking from sunrise to sunset



## MALAYSIA

A visitor takes a photo of dolls dressed in traditional Sri Lankan costumes during a doll exhibition in Kuala Lumpur on July 9

**“People now find their partners without very much direct supervision from their parents. If it’s a bad relationship, or a bad marriage, people are much freer to leave and start again.”**

Deborah Davis, a sociology professor at Yale University, who studies contemporary Chinese society, in an interview with Yale’s MacMillan Center on family and marriage issues in China



**“It was a nightmare of pain that can never be cured.”**

Cen Honggui, an 89-year-old survivor of the Nanjing Massacre. China has identified 10 more living survivors of the 1937 massacre, sources with the Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall confirmed on July 6



**“Students undergoing cosmetic surgery should not be criticized, but any beauty without inner qualities is not true and excessive pursuit of beauty may lead to personality problems.”**

Feng Guilin, a researcher with Hubei Academy of Social Sciences, on July 4. Following the end of college entrance exams on June 8, plastic surgeons reported a staggering rise in the number of young people going under the knife, *Changjiang Daily* reported that day



**“Although the best season to visit Xinjiang has arrived, tourist numbers have dropped around the region due to recent terrorist attacks.”**

Guli Ablim, Deputy Director of the Xinjiang Tourism Bureau, on July 8



## TENNIS CHAMPIONS



Peng Shuai (right) and Hsieh Su-wei won their first Grand Slam title with a 7-6 (1), 6-1 victory on July 6 over Australian duo Ashleigh Barty and Casey Dellacqua in the women’s doubles final at Wimbledon.

Peng gave the Chinese mainland its first doubles title at a major in seven years while Hsieh became the first player from Taiwan to win a Grand Slam title.

The pair, who are both 27, played a few tournaments together as amateurs but ended their partnership after turning professional. The duo reunited at the end of 2008 and won their first 11 matches, claiming titles in Bali and Sydney.



## BUSINESSMAN EYES FILM HORIZON



Wang Jianlin, Chairman of Dalian Wanda Group, is expanding the company’s investment in the film market.

Wanda Group has established a \$400 -million fund to invest in foreign films. It has signed a framework agreement with Sony Pictures Entertainment and Walt Disney Pictures to release English films around the world. In 2012, Wanda Group purchased AMC, making AMC the biggest cinema operator in the world with nearly 7,000 screens, accounting for 10 percent of global market share. It is negotiating to purchase several European and Australian cinemas.

Wang became chairman of Wanda Group in 1989. By the end of 2012, Wanda had made inroads into four industries including real estate, high-end hotels, tourism and chain stores with an annual revenue of 142 billion yuan (\$23.1 billion).





## Challenging the Government

*China Newsweek*

June 8

Edward Snowden, a 30-year-old American, fled from Hawaii to Hong Kong and then from Hong Kong to Moscow with four computers and a large amount of secret information. Although even he doesn't know where his next stop will be, he has turned the world upside down.

We see a small individual confronting a huge country in this case. In this sense, Snowden is a citizen who decided to leave his country because of dissatisfaction with the country's government.

However, Snowden's case is complicated because it is hard to measure what effect a government's online monitoring will have on its citizens' privacy. The American media once explained that the National Security Agency might grasp all the citizens' information, but the hugeness of such information makes it impossible for them to focus on any individual's information. However, such an explanation still can't eradicate public worries about the omnipresent power of the government.

Snowden's "betrayal" reminds the powerful government to strike a balance between the nation's will and citizens' freedoms.

## War Veterans Better Treated

*West China Metropolis Daily*

July 8

On July 7, 1937, Japanese troops attacked the Chinese army at Lugou Bridge near Beijing. As a result, the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression went into full swing in China. According to incomplete statistics, casualties of Chinese troops totaled over 4.13 million during the eight-year-long war.

China has paid great attention to giving special treatment to veterans who fought in the anti-Japanese war. The Ministry of Civil Affairs recently announced that all former Kuomintang veterans who participated in the war are to be included in the social welfare coverage. In particular, the social pension system must give priority to these elderly veterans. The ministry also said in a statement that local governments should invite Kuomintang veterans to attend events commemorating the victory of the war.

All soldiers in the war, including former Kuomintang troops, fought bloody battles for many years in order to defend national independence and dignity. Their historic feat for the country should be indelibly engraved in the memory of the people.

Today, it is a common responsibility for the whole society to provide preferential care to these surviving national heroes. But many veterans suffer from various difficulties due to insufficient social security. The progress in caring for veterans not only brings better treatment to them, but also allows their contribution to be recognized by all the people. These veterans, who are around 90 years old on average, care most about their deserved respect by the country.

In short, veterans who fought the war are heroes and the backbone of the nation. They deserve better treatment from all people.

## High Temps—A Risk to Workers

*Xinmin Evening News*

July 8

Shanghai has been repeatedly hit by high temperatures this summer. In response to the dangerous work environment, A deputy to the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress Li Ming recently suggested upgrading protection measures for people working in the hot sun. In addition to the high temperature subsidy, Li suggested forming comprehensive safety measures for workers in certain industries.

The likelihood of heatstroke increases dramatically in such hot weather conditions. Outdoor workers, including security personnel and traffic police officers, often spend hours working in stifling heat. They are not only in need of economic compensation, but also comprehensive health protection. It is essential to implement a system of work shifts that allow workers to have the time needed for refreshment.

Any industry that puts workers in such conditions should formulate specific regulations to ensure that the workers are protected against the hot weather. The manufacturing industry is one example. A large number of workers in the industry have to wear heavy safety protective coveralls at work in high temperatures. Although upgraded cooling coveralls have been made available, many companies will not volunteer to buy them for workers. The lack of legal restriction has added to their reluctance.

Some companies don't abide by the vacation system. Workers on the production line are often forced to work in spite of illness. It is urgent for the labor and social security administration departments to monitor these companies strictly. In addition, periodic physical examinations for people working in harsh conditions should also be contained in law as soon as possible.

## Problems in Education

*Outlook Weekly*

July 8

Ever since China restored the college entrance examination system in 1977, the country's education system has undergone reform and made significant progress. But at the same time, various problems arise. Although the concept of education for all-round development has been attached high importance, exam-oriented education still dominates most schools. Many teachers go against such principles. In their eyes, raising students' scores is more important than cultivating virtue.

One reason for the difficulty in pushing forward education for all-round development

is that many people think that promoting such education would lower enrollment rates. Although education for all-round development and exam-oriented education are different, promoting the former doesn't necessarily lower enrollment rate. Developing every child into a useful person should become our educational ideal.





COVER STORY

# SAFETY FIRST

China improves its nuclear emergency response capability By Yu Shujun

Summer is the busy season for the Dayawan nuclear power plant, located on the scenic Daya Bay in the south China city of Shenzhen. Not only is there a peak demand for electricity, but the typhoon season also means the plant must be ready to handle any emergency.

On the night of June 30, the day before tropical storm *Rumba* reached the South China sea, about 350 km southwest of Shenzhen, Dayawan's emergency response system kicked in to prevent its nuclear facilities from being damaged. Neither the plant nor its personnel were harmed.

"As long as there are potential threats, we'll utilize our emergency response system to keep our nuclear power plants safe," said Zhao Fuming, associate chief safety engineer of Dayawan Nuclear Power Operation and Management Co. The Dayawan plant has successfully fended off six typhoons since going into operation in 1994.

Japan's Fukushima nuclear accident in March 2011, which brought China's once thriving nuclear power industry to a grinding halt, has spurred a rise in the level of nuclear safety and emergency response in China.

China relaunched its nuclear power projects

in October 2012, requiring that all new nuclear power plants meet the world's highest safety standard.

Drawing on the global response to nuclear accidents, especially the Fukushima accident, China's nuclear authority has also revised its national nuclear emergency plan from its 2005 edition.

The plan, approved by the State Council and released on June 30, specifies how national and provincial authorities and nuclear power operators should respond to nuclear emergencies and requires accurate information be published in a timely and transparent manner in the event





**CLEAN ELECTRICITY:** Pictured is Phase 1 of the Ling'ao power plant, which has two nuclear reactors that came into commercial operation respectively in 2002 and 2003

of an incident or accident, according to the National Nuclear Emergency Response Office. The plan also expands emergency response to accidents that may happen during the transportation of spent nuclear fuel or aerospace vehicles equipped with nuclear devices.

"Nuclear safety is the lifeline of the nuclear power industry and the emergency response system is the last firewall to ensure safety," said Ma Xingrui, Vice Minister of Industry and Information Technology and Chairman of China Atomic Energy Authority (CAEA).

The basic tasks of nuclear emergency response are to effectively deal with possible

accidents, to control, mitigate and eliminate human harm and property loss, and to protect public and environmental safety, said Ma.

Currently, China has 17 nuclear power generating units in operation, with a combined capacity of 14.76 million kilowatts (kw), nine of which are operated by China National Nuclear Corp. (CNNC) and eight by China General Nuclear Power Corp. (CGN). Another 28 nuclear generating units are under construction, with a total capacity of 28.3 million kw.

So far, China's nuclear safety record is clean, with no incidents or accidents above level 2 of the International Nuclear and Radiological Event

Scale (INES) having taken place. There are seven levels on the INES scale: three incident levels (1-3) and four accident levels (4-7). Events without safety significance are called "deviations" and are classified below level 0. The Fukushima accident has been rated level 7.

"But we should be 100-percent prepared for the one-millionth-of-1-percent possibility [of nuclear accidents]," said Xu Ping, Deputy Director of the Department of Nuclear Emergency and Safety Regulation at CAEA.

## Emergency preparedness

The Chinese Government has attached great importance to nuclear safety and emergency response since the country set up its nuclear power industry in the 1950s, said Ma.

China began construction of its first nuclear power station in 1985, and a national committee to deal with nuclear emergencies was set up by the State Council in 1991. Having gone through several rounds of government structural reforms over the past two decades, the committee has evolved to the current National Nuclear Emergency Coordination Committee, consisting of 24 ministries or departments under the State Council and the army.

Yao Bin, Director General of the Department of Nuclear Emergency and Safety Regulation at CAEA, said ministries and departments have joined in forming a comprehensive and well-coordinated response framework. For instance, the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) has built a nuclear and radioactive monitoring network and the National Health and Family Planning Commission has set up a nuclear medicine network. ▶▶

## China's Nuclear Power Plants



At the local level, 16 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities have established nuclear emergency response committees. Nuclear power plant operators also have their emergency response groups.

The CAEA has also allocated nearly 1 billion yuan (\$163 million) to set up four national nuclear emergency technical support centers and six emergency response and rescue units. Ma said that CAEA is also going to build a national nuclear emergency response and rescue team.

China also has competent sea, land and air monitoring systems for emergencies, said Liu Senlin, Vice President of the China Institute of Atomic Energy, with more than 60 car-borne emergency monitoring systems.

The country's nuclear emergency system has successfully responded to major events, including the Fukushima nuclear accident in 2011 and North Korea's nuclear test in February 2013, said Ma.

After the Fukushima accident, China's nuclear power plants have all strengthened their emergency response capabilities. Both operators—CNNC and CGN—have increased the number of mobile emergency power generators and mobile pumps and have added anti-flood modifications to their power plants.

CNNC Vice General Manager Yang Changli said his company has upgraded its technology on several fronts and completed safety measures in the event of multiple accidents.

In 2012, CNNC conducted 280 drills, according to Yang, to test the effectiveness and

feasibility of emergency action plans of all power plants and improve emergency response capabilities.

CGN has also made safety improvements. "We don't mind rising operational costs caused by the investments in nuclear safety," said CGN Vice General Manager Tan Jiansheng.

### Information disclosure

Nuclear safety has always been a common concern among the public, which has the right to know the state of operations of nuclear power plants.

The revised plan also highlights a standard

procedure for releasing information in the event of a nuclear emergency, said Xu. Once a nuclear incident or accident occurs, accurate information must be released in a timely manner to both the public and the international community.

CGN has established a nuclear and radiation information platform, said Tan. When an event above INES level 0 occurs, the platform will publish the information within two working days or 72 hours during holidays.

The public can check the website of the Dayawan Nuclear Power Operation and Management Co. about the operation, safety, radiation protection and environmental monitoring of the plant, said Hu Guangyao, spokesman of the CGN, which operates the Dayawan plant. "For those events below INES level 0, we'll also put them on our websites for the public to check."

"As long as the public knows what's going



**STAYING ALERT:** A staff member at Dayawan introduces how the power plant's emergency center works



CHEN BAOJONG

on, they won't panic," said Hu.

CGN's Ningde and Hongyanhe plants set up the same information platform on April 15 and June 7, respectively, said Hu. All CGN's nuclear power plants under construction will follow the practice.

"Information disclosure has been included into our inner supervisory and control system, which is very strict," said Li Jing, director of safety and information department of CGN. Any malfunctions or errors should be recorded faithfully. Anyone who hides the information, whether a manager or a technician, will be severely punished, said Li.

## Raising public awareness

The Fukushima nuclear accident has exacerbated people's worries about nuclear safety. But China, the world's largest energy consumer, must continue developing nuclear power. A clean form of energy, though, nuclear power only contributes a meager 1.7 percent to the country's electricity consumption, according to the CAEA.

People fear nuclear power mainly because they don't know enough about it, said Chai Guohan, chief engineer at the MEP's Nuclear and Radiation Safety Center.

Nuclear power is safe and clean and emits little greenhouse gas. The amount of radiation of a nuclear power plant is much less than a coal-fired plant, said Pan Ziqiang, a veteran expert of nuclear radiation protection and currently Chairman of the Committee of Science and Technology at the CNNC.

To demystify nuclear power, "we often invite the public to visit our power plants in an



**ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING:** Staff members test the air around the Dayawan nuclear power facilities

effort to disseminate knowledge about nuclear power," said CGN Vice General Manager Tan. In the past two years, CGN's power plants received nearly 10,000 visitors. CGN has also held more than 60 lectures on nuclear power and nuclear safety. The company also uses microblogs to further communicate with the public.

Once a nuclear accident occurs, the biggest impact won't be physical but mental, said Liu

from the China Institute of Atomic Energy.

"Increasing nuclear knowledge among the public and communicating more with them is beneficial to the healthy development of the nuclear energy industry." ■

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