



## Hot Topics

### Tackling climate change 'urgent'

China's highest leadership began considering proposals from the country's senior researchers in an attempt to help achieve the country's ambitious goal of cutting carbon intensity by 40 to 45 percent by 2020 on February 20, 2010.

The move is a sign that China will roll out more economic and industrial policies to tackle climate change this year when drawing up the development roadmap for the 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-15).

The political bureau of the CPC Central Committee has raised climate change as their study topic for the second time during the past two years. The leadership usually holds study meetings every one or two months.

At the study meeting in Beijing, President Hu Jintao said China is committed to fighting climate change, and the leadership will be working hard to mobilize efforts to realize the goal, which China came up with shortly before the Copenhagen summit.

"We must fully recognize the importance, urgency and difficulty of dealing with climate change," Hu said in an address to other high-ranking leaders after listening to lectures by Pan Jiahua, senior researcher with Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and Xu Huaqing, director of the Energy Research Institute affiliated with the National Development and Reform Commission.

"We must make it an important strategy for our socio-economic development," Hu said.

Energy saving, emissions cuts and environmental awareness must be inculcated into not only every government worker, but Chinese society as a whole, Hu said. (Source: China Daily)

### China to build industrial system of low-carbon emissions

China will build an "industrial system" and "consumption pattern" with low carbon emissions, Premier Wen Jiabao said in the government work report he delivered at the parliament's annual session on March 5, 2010.

China will work hard to develop low-carbon technologies as well as new and renewable energy resources to actively respond to climate change, Wen said at the session of the National People's Congress, adding that the development of smart power grids should be intensified.

Other measures to combat climate change include increasing forest carbon sinks and expanding China's forests by at least 5.92 million hectares in 2010.

He promised that China would participate in international cooperation to address climate change and work for further progress in the global cause.

In his report, Wen also addressed energy conservation, environmental protection and the development of a circular economy.

"We will increase our energy-saving capacity by an equivalent of 80 million tons of standard coal," he said.

The daily sewage treatment capacity will increase by 15 million cubic meters and the daily garbage disposal capacity will grow by 60,000 tons.

For developing a circular economy, Wen said China will utilize mineral resources, recycle industrial waste, use by-product heat and pressure to generate electricity, and transform household solid waste into resources. (Source: Xinhua)

## China leading global race to make clean energy

China vaulted past competitors in Denmark, Germany, Spain and the United States last year to become the world's largest maker of wind turbines, and is poised to expand even further this year.

China has also leapfrogged the West in the last two years to emerge as the world's largest manufacturer of solar panels. And the country is pushing equally hard to build nuclear reactors and the most efficient types of coal power plants.

China intends for wind, solar and biomass energy to represent 8 percent of its electricity generation capacity by 2020. That compares with less than 4 percent now in China and the United States. Coal will still represent two-thirds of China's capacity in 2020, and nuclear and hydropower most of the rest.

As China seeks to dominate energy-equipment exports, it has the advantage of being the world's largest market for power equipment. The government spends heavily to upgrade the electricity grid, committing \$45 billion in 2009 alone. State-owned banks provide generous financing.

China's top leaders are intensely focused on energy policy: on January 27, the government announced the creation of a National Energy Commission composed of cabinet ministers as a "superministry" led by Prime Minister Wen Jiabao himself.

Regulators have set mandates for power generation companies to use more renewable energy. Generous subsidies for consumers to install their own solar panels or solar water heaters have produced flurries of activity on rooftops across China.

China's biggest advantage may be its domestic demand for electricity, rising 15 percent a year. To meet demand in the coming decade, according to statistics from the International Energy Agency, China will need to add nearly nine times as much electricity generation capacity as the United States will. (Source: New York Times)

## China issues 1st National Census of Pollution Sources

China on February 9 issued its first national census of pollution sources, with data showing that the country's wastewater discharge totalled more than 209 billion tonnes while waste gas emissions topped 63.7 trillion cubic meters in 2007.

The result was announced at a press conference held at the State Council Information Office in the morning.

"The census of pollution sources for the first time in the country is a significant survey on national situation. Its operations went smoothly and its main tasks were basically completed," said Zhang Lijun, Vice Minister of Environmental Protection, at the conference.

The census targeted nearly 6 million objects of industrial sources, agricultural sources, residential sources and centralized pollution control facilities, collecting 1.1 billion basic data on pollution sources.

Industrial pollutant discharges mainly concentrated in a small number of industries and areas, with prominent structural problems, Zhang quoted the census as saying.

Agricultural sources had notable influence on the country's water environment, therefore the prevention and control on agriculture source pollution must be placed into the environmental protection agenda so as to fundamentally solve the issue of water pollution, Zhang said.

China faces big challenge of environmental deterioration amid its rapid economic development. Environmental experts had suggested that trustworthy statistics on the sources and extent of pollution was highly necessary for the country's effective and long-term pollution prevention and control. (Source: Xinhua)