Coordination Efforts to Achieve Emission Cut Target

By LI Linxu

China has rolled out a new policy that will further coordinate its efforts to cut carbon emission and reduce pollution.

Coordinated innovation among regions, cities, industrial parks and enterprises will be promoted in this regard, according to an implementation plan jointly released by seven government bodies including the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE).

By 2025, a batch of replicable experiences in key regions and sectors will be obtained, with green and low-carbon development producing notable results, according to the policy. And by 2030, the synergy of these efforts will be greatly boosted, making contribution to the country's target of carbon peaking.

Last year, China's carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP dropped by 50.3 percent from 2005, said Zhao Yingmin, vice minister of ecology and environment, on National Low-carbon Day.

A molten salt tower solar thermal power station in Yumen city, Gansu province. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

As an important part of policy framework for carbon peaking and carbon neutrality, the plan has integrated the goals of emission cut and pollution reduction by 2025 and 2030 in areas such as air, water, soil, solid waste and greenhouse gases, said an official from MEE.

To achieve these goals, the plan sets out a series of tasks and measures, such as strengthening coordination in source control, environment governance, and green development.

It proposes enhancing the guiding role of ecological environment improvement in the energy and industrial layout, and continuously upgrading energy mix through increasing the proportion of non-fossil fuels.

Non- fossil energy accounted for 16.6 percent of China's total energy consumption in 2021, and is expected to rise up to 20 percent by 2025, according to the National Energy Administration.

Renewables such as wind, solar, biomass, marine and geothermal energy are developing fast in China and are forecast to play an ever- increasing role in green and low-carbon transition.

Research and application on coordinated control technologies will be strengthened, said the policy, adding that a batch of key labs will be built and a number of major innovation projects will be implemented.

International cooperation is also highlighted in the policy, calling for actively participating in global climate and environment governance, and carrying out practical cooperation on green, low-carbon technologies.

Big Future for Plateau Organic Agriculture in Yunnan

By ZHAO Hanbin and ZHONG Jianli

Dubbed as the kingdom of plants and animals, southwest China's Yunnan province has special advantages in producing rice, tea, flowers and fruits, as well as cattle and pigs. In recent years, the province has focused on developing organic agriculture to create green food brands, which has yielded good results.

In order to further upgrade its organic agriculture industry, the province's science and technology department recently launched a major project named "Research and Application of Technologies for Plateau Organic Agriculture in Yunnan."

With its rich biodiversity, Yunnan has natural advantages to develop organic agriculture. Its organic product certifications rank among the top in China. However, the industry still faces challenges, such as an incomplete industrial chain and demand for more technological innovation.

"The development of the organic agriculture industry in Yunnan is in a critical period of upgrading, and it is vital to advance the industry's development through sci- tech innovation and application. The launch of the project will play a significant role in promoting the high-quality development of organic agriculture with Yunnan characteristics, " said Li Jia, director of the rural division of Yunnan Province Science and Technology Department.

The project will be aimed at building the leading organic agricultural production bases in Yunnan, systematically studying the environment and ecological factors affecting plateau organic agricultural products, and establishing a suitable layout for organic agriculture.

Project members will also set standards for key quality indexes of plateau-featured organic products, and establish the organic product traceability system.

Moreover, the ecological and carbon offsetting effects of plateau organic agriculture will be evaluated, to help build the area into an internationally recognized sci-tech demonstration zone for plateau organic agriculture.

To evaluate the carbon neutral contribution, the project will use field monitoring, field investigation, GIS and a variety of other methods and models, to conduct analysis and research on the whole life cycle of representative organic products in Yunnan, including tea, vegetables, and fruit.

"The implementation of the project will scientifically quantify the carbon neutral effects of plateau organic agriculture in Yunnan, and provide scientific support for highlighting its unique ecological benefits," said Li.

This project is jointly organized by Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences (YAAC) and China Agricultural University, and will be implemented by YAAC's Institute of Agricultural Resources and Environment and Institute of Quality Standards and Testing Technology, as well as other relevant institutes and enterprises.

IPR Protection Demo Zones to Attract More Investment

By CHEN Chunyou

China will establish a group of demonstration zones for intellectual property rights (IPR) protection, according to a plan released by China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) on June 22. It is expected to build about 20 cities and regions nationwide into IPR protection hubs before 2025.

The IPR Protection Office at China International Fair for Trades in Services. (PHOTO: VCG)

In order to achieve the goal, the plan has six requirements, including strengthening the overall deployment of IPR protection, improving the legal level of IPR protection, strengthening protection of the entire chain, deepening the reform of systems and mechanisms, and promoting IPR international cooperation and exchanges.

The enterprises, industry associations, and social organizations are encouraged to participate in the global exchanges in the field of intellectual property, according to the plan, adding that the communication channels with the rights- holders at home and abroad should be improved.

The plan is also expected to improve the information notification and emergency response mechanisms for major foreign-related intellectual property disputes, and actively respond to the concerns of domestic and foreign rights-holders.

Strengthening IPR protection is a critical requirement for advancing China's innovation- driven development. According to CNIPA, the construction of national IPR protection demonstration zones will create a better environment for innovation, push different market entities to improve their professional abilities and enhance their awareness of IPR protection in the market.

In addition, it is a must for doing international trade. A better IPR environment would attract global enterprises to invest and start businesses in China, said CNIPA.

The Central Economic Work Conference 2021, held in December 2020, stressed the importance of building national demonstration zones for IPR protection, and the full use of their experience in order to improve the overall level of IPR protection. In March this year, Premier Li Keqiang further stressed IPR protection and application of IPR in the government work report.

The plan demonstrates China's stance on strengthening IPR protection, and equally respecting the rights and interests of domestic and foreign market entities, said CNIPA.

The construction of national demonstration zones for IPR protection is also an effective way to create hubs for IPR protection, while expanding China's opening-up, and bringing the benefits of innovation to people around the world, according to CNIPA.

An organic agriculture experimental field in Yunnan province. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Seven Chinese Cities Given 'International Wetland City' Status

By LI Linxu

Seven Chinese cities have been accredited as international wetland cities at the 59th meeting of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands' standing committee.

They are Hefei, Jining, Liangping, Nanchang, Panjin, Wuhan and Yangcheng.

A total of 25 cities were awarded international wetland city titles in this round of accreditation, in recognition of their exceptional efforts to safeguard urban wetlands.

Amid rising pressure to jointly tackle the climate, pollution and biodiversity crises together, urban wetlands offer valuable nature- based solutions for healthier, prosperous and sustainable societies, said Martha Rojas Urrego, secretary general of the Convention on Wetlands.

Recognizing the importance of urban wetlands, the Convention on Wetlands introduced the Wetland City Accreditation scheme in 2015.

The voluntary scheme encourages cities to value their natural or human-made wetlands and commit collective efforts to protect, sustainably manage and restore urban wetlands.

Since then, only 43 cities in 17 countries have received this recognition, among which 13 cities are from China. Changde, Changshu, Dongying, Harbin, Haikou and Yinchuan were accredited as the first batch of international wetland cities in 2018.

The Wetland City Accreditation scheme is an important opportunity for cities and local governments to integrate wetland conservation and sustainable management with sustainable development and delivery of vital services, said Martha Rojas Urrego.

Sci-tech Museums Register a Decade of Progress

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Since the outbreak of COVID- 19, China Science and Technology Museum has launched online exhibitions on fighting against COVID- 19 and traditional Chinese medicine, to guide the public toward a scientific understanding of the pandemic and master the knowledge of pandemic prevention.

Broader participation

The science literacy of citizens cannot be improved without the effort of volunteers. In the past decade, China has seen broader participation in this effort among society as a whole, with 120,000 registered volunteers at science and technology museums nationwide.

A number of science popularization specialists have emerged, who have passed on the scientific spirit to enlighten the youth.

Sha Guohe, academician at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, has devoted himself to popularize science among teenagers for 20 years. Sha designed and made dozens of experimental devices, and held more than 1,000 science classes for dozens of primary and secondary schools. He received a Most Beautiful Scientists and Technological Workers in 2021 award.

In 2016, a science and technology museum was opened at Huaiyang Middle School, a rural middle school in Henan Province, with physics teacher Liu Huadong serving as curator. Over the past six years, he has turned voluntary work into a career, visiting two remote rural schools every month to popularize science.

Meanwhile, by promoting the spirit of scientists, various popular science practices are helping to form a social environment that upholds science and advocates innovation, to stimulate young people's interest in science and awareness of innovation.

GBA's Innovation Races into Fast Lane

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There were 4,761 Macao invested enterprises in the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin in 2021, and the Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and Technology Industrial Park of Co- operation between Guangdong and Macao has attracted 220 pharmaceutical companies.

Through sci- tech cooperation projects, Guangzhou, capital city of Guangdong province, has invested 267 million RMB to support R&D cooperative projects among universities, research institutes and enterprises in Guangzhou, Hong Kong and Macao.

Around two weeks ago, the State Council issued an overall plan to promote comprehensive cooperation among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao by deepening opening up in Nansha district, Guangzhou.

This is a further step to boost the development of GBA, in particular sci-tech innovation in the area.

According to a report released by the China Development Institute in Shenzhen, by 2030, there will be over ten world-leading global sci-tech innovation enterprises, more than 100 unicorn enterprises and over 1,000 specialized, refined, differential and innovative (SRDI) enterprises in GBA, and the scale of strategic emerging industries will reach trillions of U.S. dollars.

Jinyin Lake Wetland Park in Wuhan, Hubei province. (PHOTO: VCG)