

China Acknowledged as Clean Energy Leader

Voice of the World

By GONG Qian

It is widely acknowledged that China is cementing its role in clean energy industries, significantly contributing to the global green transition as a responsible great power.

According to a recent article by *MIT Technology Review*, "China is the dominant force in next-generation energy technologies today. It's pouring hundreds of billions of USD into putting renewable sources... This investment has been transformational for the country's economy..."

Authored by Casey Crownhart, the article goes on to say, "The numbers don't lie: By a lot of measures, China is the world's leader in energy."

Crownhart analyzes how China is rising as a clean power behemoth with three charts.

"China is on an absolute tear installing wind and solar power," she says. By the end of 2024, China had installed close to 900 gigawatts of solar capacity, and this fast-paced development has carried on into 2025.

China's electric vehicle (EV) market is also booming, accounting for over 60 percent of global EV sales. Its customers include established markets like Europe and growing ones like Brazil.

Besides, EVs have also seen a growing demand in the domestic market. In the first half of 2025, China registered a record 5.62 million new energy vehicles, up 27.86 percent year on year, a record high, according to data released by the Ministry of Public Security.

In an interview with the journalist Walter Isaacson, Ford's CEO Jim Farley



A wind farm in Jiuijiang, east China's Jiangxi province on July 14, 2025. (PHOTO: VCG)

said the cost and quality of Chinese EVs is "far superior" to what he sees in the West.

An article from *The New York Times* (NYT) said, "Not only does China already dominate global manufacturing of solar panels, wind turbines, batteries, EVs and many other clean energy industries, but with each passing month it is widening its technological lead." China holds close to 700,000 clean energy patents, accounting for over half of the global total, NYT added.

The meaning behind those numbers is more important than the numbers themselves.

The success of the green transition is steering China's economy toward high-quality development, while China's green technologies provide better options to address climate problems.

Reducing emissions has never been a more pressing issue than it is today, considering the more frequent extreme

weather caused by climate change.

Thanks to its green tech boom, China is fulfilling its commitment to cut carbon emissions. The country saw its emissions decline in the 12 months up to May 2025, the BBC reported, adding that this was the first time emissions fell even as demand for power across the Chinese economy grew rapidly. "It is a moment to celebrate," the BBC said.

NYT noted that affordable Chinese-produced solar panels, batteries, and EVs have enabled many major economies — including Brazil, South Africa, and India — to shift to cleaner technologies. "That affordability is crucial for bringing down global emissions."

Crownhart echoed the view. Between 2015 and 2025, China has tripled its spending on renewable energy development, she wrote. "Looking ahead, China is still pouring money into renewables, storage, grids, and energy efficiency technologies."

Protectionism Can Never Improve Competitiveness

Comment

By GONG Qian

Alexandre Bompard, CEO of French retail giant Carrefour, was in the limelight recently for saying that the EU's proposal to charge a flat two euro handling fee for low-value e-commerce packages coming into the bloc from non-EU countries is "a joke."

Earlier in May, the EU proposed to impose a flat fee on packages less than 150 euro in value if they were imported directly by consumers. Many of those packages are from China bought via digital platforms such as the Chinese-founded Temu and Shein.

According to AFP, European retailers say they face unfair competition from overseas platforms. Bompard, who also heads the French Retailers Federation, has urged the EU to speed up its proposed fees.

Bompard's remark seems to aim at protecting local retail, but is actually a

form of trade protectionism. Resorting to a high tax strategy will harm consumers' interests and the EU's overall economy.

The local consumers are the biggest victims of trade protectionism as high tariffs increase their living costs. According to the EU Commission, e-commerce brings many benefits to consumers, businesses, and the EU economy as a whole, with around 70 percent of Europeans regularly buying products online.

High tariffs would lead to higher shipping costs, directly pushing up the prices of low-cost items. So the real burden of demanding tariffs on small parcels would fall on the consumers, especially the low-income groups who struggle to make a living.

Actually, European retailers like Carrefour are worried about competition from e-commerce platforms like Shein and Temu, which are gaining ground in the EU market. The success of these Chinese platforms is not due to the duty-free allowance, it is largely attributed to innovations such as AI-driven product selection, innovative and diversified marketing strategies, as

well as efficient logistics systems and supply chain management.

In the short term, a flat fee on low-value imports could offer some relief for European retailers. But if protectionist policies continue to grow, the EU risks damaging its international reputation and seeing its global leadership erode. The bloc has long advocated a multilateral trading system and is an active promoter of the principle of free trade.

While the fee proposal is pending approval from EU members, it should be noted that protectionism can never create competitiveness. If the EU wants to enhance its competitiveness, it should find another way to do so rather than building trade barriers.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said an open and inclusive environment for international trade serves the interests of all. It is hoped the EU will honor its commitment to openness, provide an open, transparent and non-discriminatory environment for Chinese businesses, and create favorable conditions for China-EU economic and trade cooperation.

Space Freight System Sets New Record

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While faster than the previous 6.5-hour method, it is less demanding than the ultra-fast two-hour approach in terms of rocket orbit accuracy, sensor performance and control precision, enhancing task reliability.

This mission presented two new challenges for the three-hour docking mode: conducting the maneuver at a new orbital altitude and under specific solar angle conditions. To address these, the engineering team conducted extensive simulations and data analysis, demonstrating the system's robust reliability under complex orbital mechanics and lighting conditions.

Future of space logistics

As one of the most capable cargo spacecrafts in service globally, the Tianzhou's main tasks include transporting cargo and replenishing propellant for the space station, supporting the station's attitude and orbit control, conducting space science experiments, and returning space station waste to the atmosphere for incineration. On this mission, the Tianzhou-9 also carried two experimental payloads to carry out on-orbit tests of new space technologies, improving the overall effectiveness of the mission.

All development work for Tianzhou-9 was completed before the launch of

Tianzhou-8, putting the spacecraft on standby and enabling a three-month emergency launch capability for the first time. The backup spacecraft for the next mission was also placed on standby, greatly enhancing the flexibility and security of China's space station operations.

Looking ahead, China's space logistics capabilities will expand. Two new cargo vehicles — the Qingzhou spacecraft and the Haolong space shuttle — are preparing for test flights. These newcomers will enrich the logistics system, enabling more agile, cost-effective and diversified cargo delivery solutions.

As China's orbital ambitions grow, so does the sophistication of its space delivery fleet, turning the once-distant dream of routine space logistics into high-efficiency reality.

Opinion

China's IP Industry Gains Momentum

By YU Haoyuan

China's IP consumption market has surged in recent years. According to China Toy and Juvenile Products Association (CTJPA), the annual retail sales of licensed merchandise reached 155.09 billion RMB in 2024. From global hits like *Genshin Impact* and *Black Myth: Wukong*, to Guochao blind boxes and the digital revival of Dunhuang, the rise of China's IP consumption is not only a cultural phenomenon but also a natural outcome of technological innovation, upgrade of consumption habits, and collaborative evolution of industrial ecosystems.

Tech-driven IP industry evolution

Technological innovation serves as the cornerstone of IP consumption. The IP industry is essentially a product of the resonance between technological innovation and human emotional needs. Today, China's IP trajectory mirrors mature markets like the U.S. and Japan. Globally, from myths to fairy tales and new virtual characters, breakthroughs in content production and dissemination technologies have always driven growth.

Today, China's IP industry is shifting from "content creation" to a full industry chain layout, driven by high-tech integration into cultural industries. In the era of mobile Internet, AI and big data, the logic of IP creation and consumption has been reshaped. High-precision modeling, dynamic lighting and immersive interaction are redefining IP expression.

For example, micro short dramas, as an emerging content format, are precisely the product of the combination of technology and market demand. These dramas, often adapted

from online literature and distributed via platforms like TikTok, leverage fragmented entertainment formats and emotional resonance to meet user needs. According to a 2025 report on China's online audiovisual development, as of December 2024, micro short drama users reached 662 million, with a usage rate of 59.7 percent. Within the latter six months of 2024, the percentage of users using AI tools for image and video production rose from 25.6 percent to 31 percent.

Culture confidence and global reach

Meanwhile, big data and user profiling have made IP operations more precise. By analyzing consumer patterns, content and products can be efficiently matched, enabling audiences to access their preferred shows and products. As the new driver of consumers, Gen Z's complex demands for emotional value, social identity and cultural expression are pushing the IP economy towards more experience-oriented and socially driven models.

China's IP consumption boom is also fueled by rising cultural confidence and deeper globalization. As local cultural identity strengthens, Guochao has evolved from a symbol to deeper cultural resonance. Design trends, the Palace Museum's cultural elements, and the Hanfu traditional Chinese clothing market — growing from 190 million RMB in 2015 to 14.47 billion RMB in 2023 according to iiMedia Research — highlight how Gen Z express identity through "national style."

This confidence fuels IP innovation and boosts cultural exports through youth-led spontaneous sharing. More domestic IPs are expanding overseas.

For example, Pop Mart's localized IPs, such as Thailand's "CRYBABY" series, have helped companies generate revenue outside the Chinese mainland. The company's latest financial statements show that overseas revenue increased 375.2 percent year-on-year and accounting for 38.9 percent of income. Moreover, its TikTok channel revenue surged 5779.8 percent to 260 million RMB, underscoring the power of cross-border cultural adaptation.

Full chain synergy

IPs in web literature, games, and films are going global through full-chain models covering content, translation and distribution. After its Disney+ release, *Joy of Life Season II* soon became the platform's top drama from Chinese mainland. These cases show that China's IP globalization is not just through export, but deep integration through cultural empathy and tech adaptation.

Industry-wide synergy is also speeding up the IP ecosystem's growth. According to the CTJPA, in 2024, retail sales of trendy and collectible toys reached 55.83 billion RMB. In Chenghai, Shantou — China's "toy capital" — over 300,000 toy designs are developed annually, with more than 1,000 new products launched daily. This rapid innovation is driven by the tight link between designers, manufacturers and market demand, forming a closed loop from creation to consumer.

Yet challenges still remain, including serious IP homogenisation, which hampers healthy growth and causes losses. To address this, ongoing innovation and stronger industry oversight are vital. With technological progress and deeper cultural integration, China's IP market is set for even stronger growth.

Hi-Tech|2025 CISCE

The 2025 China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE) is showcasing the latest achievements and experiences of global industrial and supply chain cooperation.

Themed "Connecting the World for a Shared Future," it kicked off in Beijing on July 16, attended by more than 650 domestic and foreign enterprises and institutions from 75 countries and regions. Foreign exhibitors account for 35 percent of the total. Major international companies like Nvidia, Schneider, and Medtronic are among those participating in the event for the first time.

The five-day expo has a supply chain service exhibition area and six major industrial chains on advanced manufacturing, clean energy, smart vehicle, digital technology, healthy life and green agriculture.

More than 100 products made their debuts at the expo, up by 10 percent compared with the previous edition. Among the exhibited products, many types of robots take center stage, captivating visitors with their innovative capabilities.

Notably, the venue this year is also completely powered by green electricity for the first time. This is expected to cut CO₂ emissions by over 1,100 tonnes.

The CISCE is not merely an event for exhibiting and selling goods; it is a platform to showcase supply chains, ecosystems, and application scenarios. It emphasizes exchanges and cooperation among upstream, midstream, and downstream enterprises in the global supply chain, helping them better identify their precise positions and those of potential partners in the supply chain, thereby facilitating targeted and forward-looking collaborations.

①Many types of humanoid robots are exhibited at the 2025 CISCE. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

②The flying robot dog could be used to carry out tasks such as target search and rescue, fire fighting, and transportation of emergency supplies. (PHOTO: HONG Xing / Science and Technology Daily)

③The world's first modulator AI companion robot is unveiled at the 2025 CISCE. (PHOTO: VCG)

