TOP NEWS

China's green system wins key approval

Global recognition boosts confidence of companies in using power certificates

By ZHENG XIN
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China's energy market is becoming more accessible to green businesses worldwide, now that a key global renewable energy initiative has given its full backing to the nation's green electricity certificates, authorities said.

The National Energy Administration is pushing for wider use of the certificates to boost green power consumption, following the recent unconditional recognition given to the GEC system by RE100, a global campaign involving more than 400 member businesses that have committed to eventually using 100 percent renewable electricity in their operations.

Wan Jinsong, deputy head of the NEA, said that RE100's unconditional acceptance of the GECs is a "landmark achievement" that signals the international standing of the system.

The move confirms that China's renewable electricity market has made a crucial step forward in providing confidence to companies that use the GEC system, as they can make credible claims about using green power, knowing that their renewable energy purchases have a verifiable impact, according to the RE100 website.

It also said that China has become an attractive international market for companies' drive toward 100 percent renewable electricity, as proving their use of renewables in the country is now easier.

Furthermore, the GEC system ensures that renewable energy use by large manufacturers in China is recognized throughout global supply chains, it said.

Currently, 270 RE100 member companies purchase green electricity in China, according to Helen Clarkson, CEO of the Climate Group, which co-launched RE100.

They reported an annual green electricity volume of 77 billion kilowatt-hours, accounting for 59 percent of their electricity consumption. Among these, the manufacturing sector consumed the most green electricity, reaching 63.876 billion kWh, said Clarkson.

She added that RE100's unconditional approval shows the influence of China's GECs on the international stage. The system helps RE100 members and their suppliers meet renewable energy commitments, offering them more flexible ways to do so.

This recognition followed successful discussions between RE100 and the China Renewable Energy Engineering Institute based on the mutual consensus on improvements to China's GEC system that were led by the Chinese government.

RE100 was launched in 2014 by the Climate Group and Carbon Disclosure Project. Member companies commit to using 100 percent renewable electricity by no later than 2050. Its technical guidelines influence how global companies and their supply chains buy renewable electricity.

Yi Yuechun, deputy head of the China Renewable Energy Engineering Institute, said the GEC system helps assess provincial-level renewable energy targets and the use of green power by industries such as aluminum production. It also supports carbon accounting and carbon footprint calculations, he said.

Manufacturing sectors such as telecommunications and automotive account for 70 percent of green electricity certificate purchases, he added.

The GECs are the sole proof of the environmental attributes of renewable energy in China and serve as the only certificate for verifying renewable energy production and consumption. One certificate is generated for every 1,000 kWh of green electricity.

China started its GEC system in 2017. Previously, China's green certificates were only conditionally accepted by RE100, requiring extra proof. China improved the system by expanding the GECs to cover all renewable power projects in 2023 and making it the sole proof of renewable energy attributes.

German chemical giant BASF was one of the first foreign companies to buy green power in China. BASF has been investing in new energy projects while also buying green electricity in China through power trading and the GECs to reduce its carbon emissions, it said.

Pan Huimin, deputy head of the NEA's new and renewable energy department, said the RE100 recognition will significantly increase the willingness and enthusiasm of RE100 member companies and their supply chains to purchase green electricity and use China's certificates. This is expected to further expand the demand for the GECs, she said.

Pan said that the NEA will continue to work with relevant departments to strengthen communication and exchanges with RE100. It will encourage RE100 to issue technical guidelines related to purchasing the GECs, which would better assist Chinese companies in buying them.

The NEA will also enhance communication on the GEC system with China's major trading partners to accelerate the process of achieving international mutual recognition.

Study tour kicks off



Vietnamese youth display sachets they made at Guangxi University in Nanning, South China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, on Sunday during the inaugural event of the "Red Study Tours" program. About 200 young representatives from China and Vietnam participated in the event. The program was jointly launched by leaders of the two countries in April. ZOU HONG / CHINA DAILY

Drones: Series' civilian use also on rise

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"One of our customers in the Middle East bought a large number of CH-4s and used them in battles with armed terrorists. The commander of that nation's army aviation force has spoken highly of our products. He told us that the CH-4 model, which is over 30 percent cheaper than Western-made drones of the same type, has very good capabilities that have been proven through combat operations.

"The commander said he was very much satisfied with the CH-4's outstanding performance and our support staff's excellent service, which met their defense needs and ensured their victory," Wang recalled.

"Before placing their order for the CH-4, the military procurement authorities of that country had carried out comprehensive market research by analyzing and comparing products from the United States, Europe, Israel and Russia. And at the end, they chose ours because the CH-4 is the 'best buy' and has the best cost performance."

He pointed out that one of the CH-4s deployed in another Middle East nation flew more than 3,000 hours in its service life and completed a long list of strike tasks, which testified to the model's quality and durability.

The executive added that militaries in the Middle East are major buyers of the Caihong-series drones and they have been sending the Chinese planes to fight terrorists for many years.

Wang's academy is a subsidiary of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp, a leading space and defense contractor in the country.

The academy started researching and developing the CH drones in 1999 after its engineers realized that their expertise in aerodynamics and missile design could also be used on unmanned aircraft.

Since then, the research complex has established a large portfolio of military drones, ranging from small models for battlefield reconnaissance to a big stealth version capable of penetrating an enemy's air defense network.

"Our drones feature low operational and maintenance costs and better performance compared with similar types from the West. They have combat-tested capabilities. Moreover, we always follow a set of customer-centered culture and strategies," Wang said.

"Most of our buyers would return to us to place more orders after using our drones in combat and seeing how reliable our products are, and one of them has even purchased our drones four times," Wang noted.

The executive said his academy has been striving to promote its latest offer, the CH-9 heavy-duty strike drone, among current and potential buyers.

"The CH-9 is as good as the US' MQ-9 Reaper. We are convinced that the new model will attract our current and potential clients that are in need of such hardware and, at the same time, can afford it," he said.

The CH-9, which was unveiled to the public at the 15th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition that took place in Zhuhai, Guangdong province, in November, features a large body, strong carrying capacity and a long flight range.

Technical specifications published by Wang's academy show that the drone has a maximum takeoff weight of 5 metric tons. It has eight external weapon pylons under its wings as well as another one under the fuselage, and is able to carry a total of 490 kilograms of ammunition, including air-to-air and anti-ship missiles, bombs, torpedoes and loitering munitions.

When loaded with weapons, a CH-9 is able to fly as far as 11,500 kilometers and remain in the air for up to 40 hours. It can also generate battlefield intelligence in real time, autonomously identify targets and adjust its flight route.

These features enable the CH-9 to carry a large amount of munitions to patrol areas with potential targets, including warships and submarines, according to the academy. The aircraft is also capable of performing regional early-warning tasks.

"Beside the high-end CH-9, we also have some low-cost types to offer to those with less budget," Wang said.

The academy has also delivered final assembly lines to two foreign countries, and the facilities "are still running", Wang said, noting that his academy is the first Chinese company to export assembly lines of military drones.

Furthermore, several foreign customers have reached the China Academy of Aerospace Aerodynamics, inquiring about its drones' applications for civilian purposes such as cargo transport, cloud seeding and natural resources prospecting, according to Wang.

Actually, several modified CH-3s have been used to conduct the first drone-based aerial survey of mineral resources in Africa since 2017.

Those CH-3s, the world's first deployable mine-survey drones, were used to prospect for mineral resources in Zambia, which testified to the Caihong series' huge potential in business sectors, Wang said.

"Our drones have helped our clients a lot in cracking down on terrorism and maintaining their domestic stability and security. They have also extensively improved the users' national defense capabilities. Through the drone transactions, China and those countries have consolidated their relationship and friendship," the executive said.

Cities vie for a slice of cake as marriage rules ease

By CHEN MEILING in Beijing
and **CANG WEI** in Nanjing

Chinese couples are now tying the knot in their favorite cities nationwide, with the country revising its marriage registration regulation to ease the documentation process, and this paradigm shift in rules has become the icing on the wedding cake for the local economy.

As lovebirds rush to register their union at the place where they first met, where they studied together, or where they pledged their everlasting love, or a place they've never been to before, many cities are offering incentives to cash in on this surge in special visitors.

Some have moved marriage registry offices to parks, historical buildings, or popular scenic spots, while others are offering free tickets or discounts to tourist attractions, or even souvenirs that reflect the local culture as wedding presents.

China's updated marriage registration regulation, which took effect on May 10, allows couples to register their marriage at any eligible registry office nationwide, regardless of their household registration location.

A marriage registry office next to Xuanwu Lake, a tourist attraction in Nanjing, Jiangsu province, is among those climbing the popularity charts, according to Wang Yao, head of the marriage registration center of Xuanwu district civil affairs bureau.

Covering an area of 350 square meters, the office premises feature a marriage registration area, a Chinese-style certification section, space for ceremonies, photo-op spots and even rooms for counseling. For added convenience, a 100 sq m commercial space has been set up near the office. It offers branded jewelry, beverages and wedding services.

"To accommodate a potential surge of couples wanting to register their marriages on May 20 and 21, we plan to open as early as 8 am on Tuesday and Wednesday," Wang said, noting that the dates 5/20 and 5/21 are homophonous with the phrase "I love you" in Chinese.

The Xuanwu registry office has received numerous inquiries and appointments in recent days, both from local residents and visitors.



A couple pose for photos at a marriage registration office in Xuanwu district, Nanjing, Jiangsu province, on May 10. LI BO / XINHUA

"Most people want to double-check if marriage registration is now indeed possible without household registration books," Wang said.

Nanjing is also offering marriage registrations at its other scenic spots, including the Confucius Temple. At the temple's Xifu Hall, couples can opt for a free Ming-style wedding. The ceremony, which dates back to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), has created quite a buzz online.

In Zhejiang province, couples can complete the entire process of marriage registration, certification and photography at one stop — the Qiandao Lake Scenic Area in Chun'an county.

The incentives introduced by the county include year-round free admission to major scenic spots such as Qiandao Lake and Longchuan Bay. Those registering their marriage on or after May 10 also get discounts at 17 hospitality and dining establishments, including high-end hotels and trendy restaurants.

"Qiandao Lake boasts an unparalleled landscape," said Huang Yaqin, deputy director of Chun'an culture, radio, television, tourism and sports bureau. "By relocating the marriage registration center to the scenic area, we offer more than just stamping papers."

Huang added that this "sweet economy" will serve as a new engine for local development.

In Hubei province, a marriage registration center has been set up at Luming Park in Xiangyang, where couples can tie the knot amid a sea of roses.

Wang Jinwei, a professor at the School of Tourism Sciences of Beijing International Studies University, said the revised rules reflect improvement in China's public services and its overall system of governance.

This splendid merger of marriage registration and tourism will help boost the local economy and stimulate consumption even during the off-season, he added.

Liu Kun in Wuhan contributed to this story.

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Political Lens

New collection of articles on Xi Jinping Thought published

The Central Party Literature Press has published a new collection of articles on studying Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

The new collection, compiled by the Institute of Party History and Literature of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, consists of five volumes of 29 articles published since November 2023.

These articles focus on studying and implementing relevant discourses made by Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, with the aim of advancing systematic research and theoretical interpretation of the Party's innovative theories for the new era.

The articles were originally published in People's Daily or Qiushi Journal, both flagship publications of the CPC Central Committee.

The first two collections on the same topic, each comprising five volumes, were released in 2020 and 2023.

Nation to deepen cooperation with Slovakia and Mexico

Zhao Leji, chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, met separately in Beijing on Monday with Richard Rasi, speaker of the Slovak National Council, and Sergio Gutierrez Luna, president of the Chamber of Deputies of Mexico.

In his meeting with Rasi, Zhao said that China is willing to actively work with Slovakia to deepen political mutual trust, expand mutually beneficial cooperation, and enhance people-to-people exchanges, thereby continuously enriching the content of the China-Slovakia strategic partnership.

When meeting with Gutierrez, Zhao, China's top legislator, said that Beijing highly appreciates the Mexican Chamber of Deputies for its long-standing and firm adherence to the one-China principle.

Mexico is welcome to participate in Belt and Road cooperation in a flexible manner and work with China to deepen cooperation in both traditional and emerging fields, Zhao said.

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Growth: Economy set to maintain its resilience

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Wang warned that the impact of US tariffs might further weigh on industrial output and dampen confidence in consumption and investment, but said he still expects the Chinese economy to maintain its resilience and continue growing, thanks to the ongoing macroeconomic policy support.

He pointed to China's new financial stimulus package, including interest rate cuts, liquidity injections, and targeted funding for consumption and technological innovation, as signs of Beijing's firm commitment to stabilizing the economy and financial markets amid external pressures.

Fu Linghui, a spokesman for the NBS, said that synchronized macro policies and proactive measures across the board have "bolstered China's confidence and capacity to meet various risks and challenges".

"In the next stage, we should adopt more proactive and effective macroeconomic policies, and the focus should be placed on stabilizing employment, enterprises, markets and expectations," he said on Monday at a news conference in Beijing.

Xiong Yuan, chief economist at Guosheng Securities, said more incremental policy steps are likely on the horizon, such as additional issuance of treasury bonds or local government special bonds, expanding the scope of large-scale equipment upgrade and trade-in deals in consumer goods programs, vigorous development of service consumption, and accelerated urban renewal initiatives.