new stories of the Silk Road

No. 14

April, 2018 pressoffice@idcpc.gov.cn

Hot issue

The green development strategy is being carried out through cooperation projects between countries involved in the initiative.

P2

Projects

Over 3/4 of Belt and Road countries have proposed greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

P3

Song Chen/ China Daily

Story

Thanks to the green development concepts deeply rooted in the Belt and Road projects, local economic structures and productivities are constantly being optimized.

P4

Green development promoted in Belt and Road countries

The Belt and Road Initiative aims to achieve a green, low-carbon, recycling-based and sustainable production way of life and strengthen cooperation on ecological and environmental protection while realizing the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The green development strategy is being carried out through cooperation projects between countries involved in the initiative.

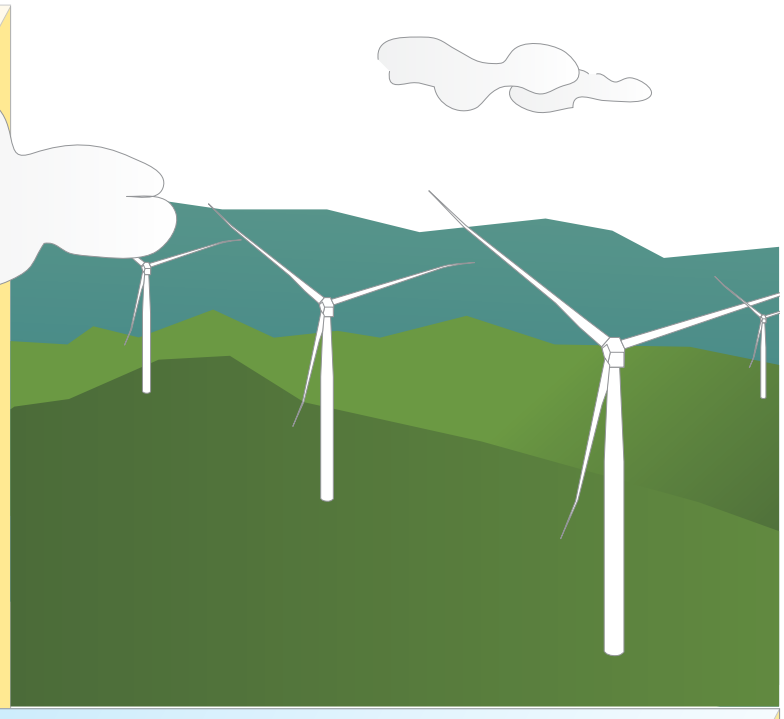
As the first large energy project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the Sahiwal Coal Power Plant has filled 25 percent of Pakistan's electricity gap since it began operations.

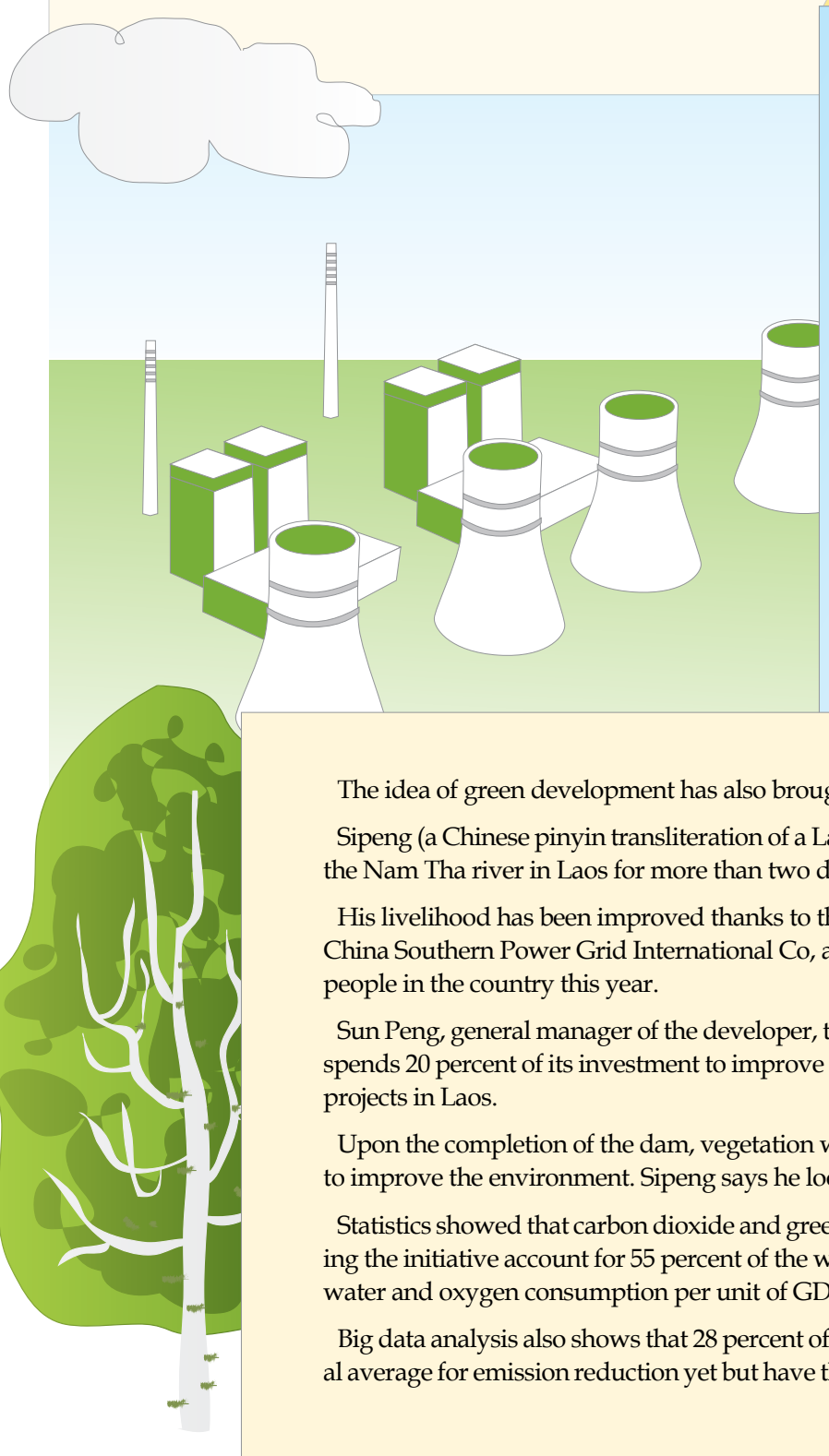
Besides shortage of power supply, Pakistan suffers from severe air pollution. Three Pakistani cities -- Karachi, Peshawar and Rawalpindi -- have been listed by the WHO as among cities having the world's worst air quality.

It is estimated that the plant will have an effect equal to burning 100,000 fewer tons of coal each year.

Near the plant, a textile industrial park will be built and will create more than 10,000 jobs for locals.

China is further promoting the green development strategy and bringing more clean energy projects to countries involved in the initiative.



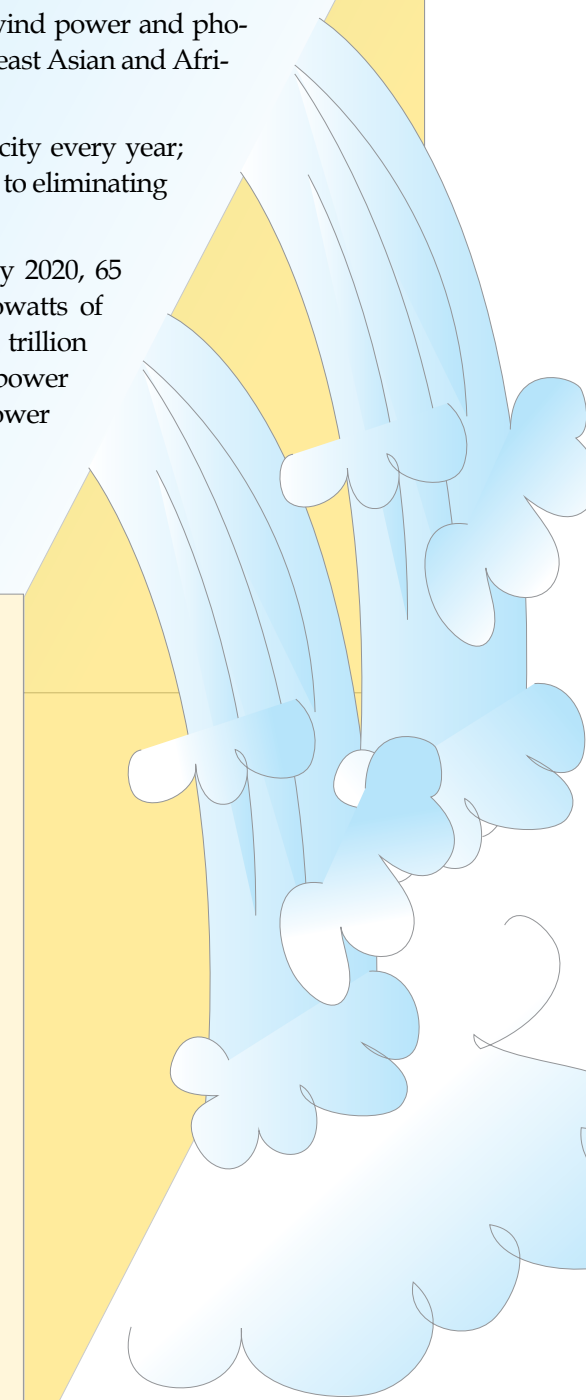


China is further promoting the green development strategy and bringing more clean energy projects to countries involved in the initiative.

More than 20 Chinese enterprises have developed wind power and photovoltaic power projects in over 30 South Asian, Southeast Asian and African countries along the route.

All these projects produce 6.6 billion kWh of electricity every year; the reduction of carbon dioxide emission is equivalent to eliminating 4 million private cars for one year.

According to the Global Environmental Institute, by 2020, 65 countries along the route will have 650 million kilowatts of new energy installed capacity and be generating 1.4 trillion kWh of electricity per year, which is equivalent to the power produced annually by 14 of China's Three Gorges power plants.



The idea of green development has also brought benefits to people of these countries.

Sipeng (a Chinese pinyin transliteration of a Laotian name) has been making a living as a boatman on the Nam Tha river in Laos for more than two decades.

His livelihood has been improved thanks to the Nam Tha 1 Hydropower Project, jointly founded by China Southern Power Grid International Co, and is expected to generate electricity for over 2 million people in the country this year.

Sun Peng, general manager of the developer, the Nam Tha 1 Lao Power Company, said the company spends 20 percent of its investment to improve the environment, 30 percent more than spent in similar projects in Laos.

Upon the completion of the dam, vegetation will be restored and local species of fish will be released to improve the environment. Sipeng says he looks forward to expanding his business by then.

Statistics showed that carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions of the countries and regions joining the initiative account for 55 percent of the world's total and their steel, cement, non-ferrous metals, water and oxygen consumption per unit of GDP are twice as high as the world's average.

Big data analysis also shows that 28 percent of the countries along the route haven't reached the global average for emission reduction yet but have the strongest desire for green development cooperation.

Work together to build green path on Belt and Road

The Belt and Road countries collectively have more than 2/3 of the world's population, generate 1/3 of the world's GDP, account for 50% of the world's energy use, and emit 60% of global carbon emissions.

This region is home to many of the most promising and dynamic emerging economies in the world, the Middle East oil exporters, a number of islands, and some of the world's least-developed countries. Given its varied and dynamic nature, it is quite sensitive to climate issues.

As of the end of April 2017, 68 Belt and Road countries had signed the Paris Agreement. Among them, 47 had completed domestic approval procedures, 66 had finalized and submitted INDCs and made climate change mitigation and adaptation commitments. Over 3/4 of Belt and Road countries have proposed greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

Belt and Road Countries Climate Change Mitigation Policies and Initiatives

Industry	Emission Reduction Policy and Initiatives	Country
Power	Develop renewable or clean energy	Majority of Belt and Road countries
	Improve energy efficiency	
Transportation	Improve road networks and management	Mongolia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Jordan, Thailand, Macedonia
	Promote new energy automobiles (hybrid or electric cars, use of biofuels)	Mongolia, UAE, India, Nepal, Vietnam, Brunei, Azerbaijan
	Develop public transportation and enhance sustainable transportation construction in urban area	Israel, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, Azerbaijan, Macedonia
	Improve fuel economy and promote use of clean energy with economic means	Mongolia, UAE, Thailand, Brunei, EU Member States
	Improve energy efficiency	Tajikistan, Yemen, Bahrain, Turkey
Agriculture	Improve land management	Yemen, Tajikistan
	Promote emission reduction in farming and stock farming	Mongolia, Azerbaijan, New Zealand
Forestry	Enhance forestry carbon trades	Jordan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Laos, Azerbaijan, Belarus, China
	Participate in the UN Collaborative Program on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries	Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam
Energy Saving	Promote industrial energy saving	Mongolia, Turkey, India, Sri Lanka
Modernization	Accelerate industrial modernization	Tajikistan, Sri Lanka
Waste	Improve waste management	UAE, Thailand, Brunei, Indonesia, Azerbaijan
	Promote recycled use of wastes (e.g. power generation with landfill gas)	Jordan, Yemen, India, Nepal, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia
Market Mechanism	Develop carbon trade markets	China, South Korea, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, EU Member States

Belt and Road Countries Climate Change Adaptation Targets and Actions

Target	Action	Country
Top-level Design, Mechanism and System Design	Design state-level climate change adaptation strategies and industry planning, incorporate climate change demands in state and local planning, launch pilot projects	Afghanistan, South Africa, Belarus, Lebanon, Ethiopia, Georgia, Kuwait, Bahrain, China
	Assess climate change adaptation investment demands, increase domestic funding, and seek international collaboration	Bangladesh, Malaysia, India, Egypt, South Africa.
	Establish a sound warning and forecasting system and improve disaster prevention capacity	South Africa, China, India
Agriculture	Improve irrigation efficiency and agricultural productivity, promote climate-adaptive agriculture	Afghanistan, Georgia, Bahrain, Cambodia, India, Malaysia
	Develop agricultural system management, promote technical plantation and diversified breeding	Egypt, India, Cambodia, Laos, Yemen
Water Resources	Invest on modern irrigation systems, improve comprehensive development and management of water resources, establish flood management system	Egypt, India, Iran, Jordan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kuwait
	Improve residents' awareness of water saving	Egypt, India, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Pakistan
	Establish water resource information system and improve water allocation and management capacity	Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Yemen, Mongolia, Sri Lanka
Coastal Zone	Promote reclamation and ecosystem restoration	Bahrain, Bangladesh, Maldives, Saudi Arabia, UAE
	Improve coastal zone land use management and planning, restrict industrial expansion, and protect the livelihood of the coastal residents	Egypt, India, Georgia, Malaysia, Yemen, Vietnam
	Improve information system of coastal zone climate change	Kuwait, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Singapore
Infrastructure	Improve urban and rural infrastructure to reduce fragility and exposure	Bahrain, Yemen, Laos, Kuwait, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, East Timor, Cambodia
	Improve energy infrastructure, increase use of renewable energy, and reduce fragility of energy system	Yemen, Bangladesh, Laos, Kuwait, Vietnam, Singapore, Qatar
Public Health	Improve public health infrastructure and water supply systems, improve health care services	Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam
	Identify potential risks, raise public awareness, and enhance research and prevention of epidemics	India, Cambodia, Malaysia

Source: compiled based on the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, national communications, biennial reports/updates of contracting parties published on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change website.

Green Silk Road: A dream comes true

Thanks to the green development concepts deeply rooted in the early-harvest projects of the Silk Road Economic Belt, local economic structures and productivities are constantly being optimized. The dream of a "Green Silk Road" is coming true.

The Dangara Basin of Tajikistan has been planting cotton for the past two to three thousand years. The largest spinning workshop in Mid-Asia is operational with a capacity of 60,000 spindles. It is an investment of Zhong Tai (Dangara) New Silk Road Textile Company Limited. In a trial-production run of only a few months, the workshop has been producing products for export to Russia, Turkey, Italy and Poland.

A local staff checking the yarn in a Zhong Tai (Dangara) New Silk Road Textile Company Limited workshop

Photo by Zhao Yu/ Xinhua

President of the Company Xiao Ruixin said that the project adopts the global leading Uster Quality Standards in production, paving the way for the Tajikistan-made yarns to penetrate high-end markets.

In line with the overall planning, the textile manufacturer will be launching weaving, printing and garment-making enterprises, which will adopt the best environmentally-friendly technologies in the world. It is anticipated they will provide over 3000 jobs, with annual sales of 1 billion TJS (around $127 million) and tax paid of 100 million TJS.

Xiao also said that though the textile industry is a traditional industry with the latest technical breakthroughs it has undergone significant changes in terms of techniques and environmental protection awareness. "Our target is that, utilizing the advantages in material, equipment and techniques, we make full play of the geographical strength of Tajikistan and export high-value-added textile products to all corners of the world."

Cheng Shaoshan, head engineer of the Tajikistani Railway Project of the China Railway 19 Bureau Group, is in charge of the first railway project offered by Chinese companies in Tajikistan under the Belt and Road Initiative. What he is concerned most about in the project, other than process and quality, are environmental issues such as soil and water conservation.

Green side slope outside of the No.1 Tunnel of Tajikistan Railway Project

Photo by Zhao Yu/ Xinhua

Tajikistan, located in the Pamirs, has a dominant herbosa vegetation, which struggles to recover from any damage. The Chinese contractors have therefore required prioritization of both quality and environmental protection. The natural side slopes along the railway have been greened to avoid soil and water loss, and the tunnel drainage system also adopts an under-drainage design to cut ground erosion.

During construction, the company has taken a long term view and prioritized the task of environmental protection so that the railway project will not sabotage the railway base or safe operations through environmental damage. This has been widely recognized by the local government and staff as well.

Chinese company TBEA leads a heat-power cogeneration project in the capital city Dushanbe where there is a shortage of electricity and heating. The project construction head, Sun Hongshan, said that the thermal power station adopts a world-leading electric bag dust removal process and wet desulphurization technologies, meets the world's advanced standards on all indexes, and realizes zero emission of industrial waste water. For better energy use efficiency, even the boiler was chosen based in part on the features of local coal.

Tajikistan Dushanbe No. 2 Thermal Power Station Phase I Project Central Control Room

Photo by Zhao Yu/ Xinhua

On December 22, 2017, the Ministry of Energy of Tajikistan awarded the Chinese project head Xiao Zhi an "Energy Contribution Award". According to Sun, it is the first time it was awarded to a foreigner.

As the industrial chain improves with environment projection technologies, the economic structure in Kazakhstan is also become increasingly diversified. The CITIC Group-built asphalt manufacturer is the first modern petroleum processor in Kazakhstan since its independence in 1991.

General Manager of CITIC's Caspian Sea Asphalt Joint Venture in Kazakhstan, Zhao Jingzhong, said that the asphalt project has been operational since 2014 and has an annual production capacity of 1 million tons of crude oil related products including oxidized asphalt, modified asphalt, mixed oil, heavy fuel oil and partially deasphalting crude oil. This project has played a role in promoting Kazakhstan's economic restructuring and transition.

Zhao also said that the Chinese companies always prioritize green development and environmental protection in projects and manufacturing in the Belt and Road countries. The future-oriented initiative seeks mutual development and the appreciation of all peoples.